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PASHI ブックス 主婦と生活社

Kuma Kuma Kuma Bear

– The Bears Bear a Bare Kuma –

- Volume 4 -

Bear Goes to the Beach

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Chapter 75
Bear-san Purchases A Store

I was finally back at the Bear House in Crimonia after a long time.
The last time I was here, I immediately returned to the capital after buying eggs and making pudding.
So I really did have the impression that it had been a long time.

“Big Sis Yuna, it was really fun, wasn’t it?”
“I am pleased that you think so. Since I have the transfer gate, we can go there whenever we want.”
“Yes, but next time I want to go with all my family.”
“I see, but don’t tell anyone about the gate, okay?”
“Okay.”

Fina was going to head home, so we parted ways there.
I left the Bear House to tell the people who had taken care of me that I was back.
First, I headed towards the Adventurers’ Guild.

“Yuna-san, you are back?”
“Yes, I got back today.”
“But wasn’t the king’s birthday yesterday?”
“Well, about that…”
“Your summoned beasts can move really fast, huh.”
“Anyways, here, a souvenir.”

I bought an accessory that was popular in the capital.

“An accessory? Thank you very much.”

Since I really didn’t know what the fashion sense in this other world was like, I bought whatever the seller suggested, but considering her happy face, there didn’t seem to be a problem.

“Also, is the guild master around?”
“Yes, one moment please.”

Helen went to call the guild master.
When she came back, I was told to go in.

“Oh, you’re back. That was fast.”
“Here, a souvenir.”

I brought out some of the food that I randomly bought.

“Also, thank you for the introduction letter.”
“Was it helpful?”
“I encountered some trouble before giving the letter, but the guild master of the capital helped me out a lot afterwards.”
“It’s fine if it helped you. So, what will you do now?”
“Hmmm…It will depend on the commerce guild.”
“Did something come up?”
“I plan to open a shop, so kinda.”
“A shop…but aren’t you an adventurer? Or will you quit being an adventurer?”
“The shop will be managed by someone else. I’ll be sponsoring it by providing the ingredients and money. That way, I’ll be able to eat whatever I want, whenever I want.”
“You’re opening a shop just for that?”
“I think that it’s an acceptable reason.”

The guild master seemed to have given up on understanding me, so I ignored him and went to the commerce guild.
When I arrived at the commerce guild, Mylene-san spotted me and shouted my name from the counter.

“Yuna-san!”
“Please don’t shout people’s names with such a loud voice.”
“But I can’t help it when I see you.”
“Here, a souvenir.”

It wasn’t the same as Helen’s, but it was also an accessory.

“Thank you very much.”
“So, what is the current status of the shop? Was there a good place?”
“Yes, there was a great place, so I reserved it. The only thing left is the money.”
“How much is it?”

“About this much.”
“Isn’t that expensive?”

The amount of money designated was ten times the price of the Bear House’s plot of land.
After I created the transfer gate, I bought the plot of land I was renting.

“There is a building on it this time, and it’s quite big.”
“I don’t think I need a shop this big, though.”
“What are you saying! It’s pudding, you know! It’s no good if it’s not big!”

She cried out to me from the reception with a really loud voice.

“Is that so?”
“That’s right. For now, let’s go see it. You can decide after that.”

That was why we went to the shop I was considering purchasing…

“Shop?”

From any angle I could see, it was a mansion.
It was a small one, but it was still a mansion.

“I asked for a shop, though…”

I was only thinking of a shop where you could buy junk food.
Yet, what stood in front of me was a mansion.

“So, it would be great if you renovated it to be a restaurant. It’s a mansion, so it comes with a kitchen. You can allow lots of people to enter, so it won’t trouble anyone passing by.”
“Yes, but…”
“Anyways, let’s go inside.”

Led by Mylene-san, I entered the mansion.
After opening the door and entering the house, there was a big stairway and a large space around it .

“You can line up tables and chairs on this floor.”

“And on the second floor?”
“For the second floor rooms, I think you could prepare reserved seats. You could also prepare private rooms for couples, or something like that.”
“And the kitchen?”
“It’s further inside. There are a lot of rooms on the first floor, so you will have lots of space to store the ingredients.”

I did a simulation in my head.
I could make a system where you would buy food tickets at the counter, where the money and goods would be exchanged.
Or I could change it to a system where you paid after eating.

If it was the former idea, I would need to make a counter near the kitchen, and the people would be able to sit wherever they wanted.
If it was the latter, I would have to put a counter at the entrance.
Furthermore, it would be necessary to prepare a record of what they had eaten, or a receipt.
It would be difficult to make the children from the orphanage do it.
Considering this, the payment in advance system would work better.

“How is it? Though, if you think that it’s too big, I could look for another place.”

I had the money I brought from Japan, as well as the money I received for capturing the thieves.

“I will buy it. Is it okay if I pay later?”
“Yes, there is no problem.The renovation, cleaning, tables, and chairs will also be included.”

After I parted ways with Mylene-san, I went to the orphanage.
The children rushed over as soon as they saw me.
It was like this every single time, what a healthy bunch of kids.
There were some children that I didn’t remember seeing before, but was it just my imagination?
I assembled the children who were approaching and gave them the fruits that I had bought as gifts from the capital.
They were the fruits I had not seen in this town.
When I had tried eating one, it had a sweet and sour taste, similar to apples.
They were all happily sharing it with each other.

The children politely thanked me and went towards the cafeteria.

“Yuna-san, you are back?”

Since the entrance became noisy, the director came out of the room.

“I came back today. Director, how are the children?”
“They are healthy, thanks to Yuna-san. They eat well, sleep well, and work well too.”

That was a good thing.

“I would like to give a new job to the children, is that okay?”
“What sort of job?”
“I think we could call this a café. The main food we will be selling will be bread, but there will also be wolf meat, the pudding that I made before, and pizza; but I think the menu may increase later. That’s why, if there are any children that like cooking or want to take care of guests, I would like them to be part of my café.”
“How many of them would you need?”
“Let’s see, I would like around three chefs and three servers, so I think six would be a good number. Of course, we will do some rotations so they learn all of the different jobs.”
“I understand. For now, I will assemble the children and ask them.”

When we went to the cafeteria, we could still see the children happily eating the fruits I had bought.

“You can all continue eating, but listen to me.”

The children’s gazes were all directed towards the director.
They were all growing up to be good children thanks to her as well.

“It seems that Yuna-san wants to open a café. For this reason, she wants around six children to help her. Is there anyone who wants to do it?”
“What’ll we make?”
“The main thing will be food made with bread, and also pudding.”
“Here! I’ll do it!”
“Me too!”
“And me!”

“I will say it now, but the puddings are something that we will be selling. You won’t be able to eat it yourself, you know.”
“Ehhh…”
“That’s obvious, you know!”
“And I will let you look after the customers and handle money. That’s why I prefer children who know how to read, write, and calculate.”
“Ehhh…”
“I know how to read, write, and calculate. I want to do it.”
“I can do it too!”
“I have some trouble with calculations, but I want to do it too.”
“I want to cook too.”

Hands were raised one after another.
I decided to choose the first six children who raised their hands.
There were four girls and two boys.
The oldest one was a 13-year-old girl named Mill.
I decided to have her be the manager.

“But, the cluckers have been increasing, so is it really okay for me to take six of them?”
“About that, during the time when Yuna-san was at the capital, the number of orphans increased, I am sorry.”

The director was bowing her head.
I see, so that was why I could see children I didn’t recognize.

“You don’t need to worry, since you are taking care of them after all. And whenever you see orphans, you can’t abandon them, right?”
“Thank you very much.”
“Moreover, because you are raising them properly, there aren’t any selfish children.”
“That’s because Liz and Gaul are strict with them.”

Liz was a girl who acted like a young version of the director.
Gaul was the oldest child, a 15-year-old boy.
Liz took care of the girls and Gaul took care of the boys.
It seemed that the two of them assigned work to the children.
It was great that I had less work to do.

That day, I taught the six children how to make pudding and pizza, so it was decided that we would eat pizza that evening.

Chapter 76
Bear-san And The Shop's Reconstruction

The next day, I went to the shop to prepare what was needed.
Still, it was really big, huh.
I had thought that if I had to make a shop, I would make something like a fast food place, so I couldn't stop thinking about how big the mansion in front of me was.
Well, just thinking about it wouldn't resolve anything now that I had already bought it.
The site's condition left nothing to be desired.
It was big and near the orphanage. Even though it was a little far from the center of the town, it wasn't a distance that would stop the customers from coming.

As soon as I entered the shop, I headed towards the kitchen.
First, I had to make the stone ovens that were vital for baking.
I placed the things that would've been a hindrance inside the Bear Box, so that there would be enough space in the kitchen.
I had prepared three stone ovens for baking bread and pizza.
I hoped that this would be good enough.
Well, I would just have to make more if it wasn't.
Next, I thought about what I should do for the fridge.
I found a small storehouse next to the kitchen and entered it.
Although I said it was a small storehouse, it was around 10 tatami mats wide.
Was this the pantry? There weren't any windows.
Once I pressed a switch on the wall, a light magic stone lit up the storehouse.
There was absolutely nothing inside.
This was probably a good spot.
I insulated the walls with my earth magic so that no heat could enter.
Then I placed ice magic stones in different places and transformed it into a big, refrigerated storehouse.
Was there anything else we needed?
I thought about it, but nothing came to mind.
I would have to consult Morin-san about this.
(Editor's Note: 10 tatami mats is about 16.53 meters squared or 177.91 square feet)

Next were the shop's decorations.
Originally, it was a noble's home, but…
Had no one cleaned this place for a long time? Even the carpets and wallpaper were all dirty.
Mylene-san said that she would take care of the cleaning and renovation. Since it was included in the price, I decided to let them do it.

I went to the second floor.
There were rooms kept for guests, but wouldn't they be too big for couples?
Wouldn't it be better to use them to hold events like birthday parties?
Still, would anybody use them?
Well, we'll think about what to do about the second floor once the shop opens.
Then I went to the garden.
It was quite big.
However, it was also quite messy.
Since no one was living here, the vegetation had grown wild.
I wondered, did the cleaning and renovation include the garden as well?
If it didn't, we would have to do it ourselves.
However, could we create a café terrace once it was cleaned?
Well, that would depend on the number of customers though.
It would be great if we could make it, but it would be meaningless if no one used it.
I decided to hold onto this idea for now.

For a few days after this, I went to the orphanage to teach the children how to cook.
During that time, I left the renovations to Mylene-san.
I assembled various ingredients for the pizza and made some different types of pudding as well. I modified the taste and used different toppings to increase the menu choices.
Making such a big menu was not necessarily a good thing, so I asked for impressions from Helen, Mylene, and Helena to narrow it down.

As the preparations for the shop progressed steadily, Morin-san and her daughter finally arrived from the capital.
After arriving, Morin-san went to the orphanage we promised to meet at.

"Yuna-san, so you're already here, huh."

I couldn't tell them that I came back through the Bear Transfer Gate.

“Yes, I arrived a little earlier than you.”

The two of them seemed to be really tired after their long trip. Their fatigue was clearly visible.

“What will you be doing after this today?”
“We are really tired, so we were thinking of finding an inn.”
“Don’t worry, I have already prepared a place for you to stay.”
“That would help us a lot. We are exhausted after the long journey.”

I led the two of them outside of the orphanage.

“So, Yuna-san, where are we going?”
“Ah, Morin-san, you can stop addressing me so formally.”

I was really unaccustomed to being addressed with ‘-san’ by older people.

“Then is it okay to call you Yuna-chan?”
“Yes, please go with that instead. We are going to the place where Morin-san will be working. There are a lot of spare rooms in the shop, so I thought about letting you live there.”
“Thank you.”
“No problem, I’ve unreasonably made you come here after all.”

We arrived at the shop (?).
Morin-san and Karin-san froze.
(TL note: the “?” was in the raw)

“Yuna-chan, isn’t this a mansion?”

In front of them stood a mansion that was going to be used as the shop.

“A former one. Now, it’s my shop and the place where Morin-san and everyone else will work.”
“A shop? Are you saying that we will sell bread here?”
“It’s still in the middle of renovations, though.”

There was no signboard or name for this shop either.
It was because I wanted to think about it with everybody.

A café, a tea house, a bakery, a pizzeria, or a pudding store, what would be good?
In this situation, I couldn't decide by myself.

"In this sort of place, the bread…"
"I will be explaining about the shop tomorrow, so please rest for today."

I brought the two of them into the shop.

"It's amazing!"
"Mum, will we really be selling bread here?"

The two of them looked at the already cleaned floor.

"The first floor will be used for the shop, so please use the rooms on the second floor."

They went to look at the second floor.
Past the big staircase, there were plenty of rooms.

"I don't mind, but will we really be living here?"
"It's great because the workplace is near, right?"

I took them into the farthest rooms on the second floor.
There weren't any conspicuous ornaments that stood out, but it was a pretty room.
Was it because it used to be the room of a noble? The window frame made the room look very stylish.

"For now, I will bring out the luggage that I've brought from the capital. Please let me know if you have any requests for the arrangement."

I arranged the beds, the closets, and the drawers.

"It doesn't seem to go well with the room, huh…"

The wallpapers, the floor, and the curtains were beautiful…
However, the beds and other things that I brought out were for commoners.
The bed was small, and the closet was dirty.
Also, the small desk stood out in the big room.
It created a strange sense of discomfort.

“Do you want me to buy some furniture meant for nobles?”
“It won’t suit us.”
“More importantly, will I be able to sleep in such a large room?”

Karin-san muttered with a small voice.

“There’s also a bath, so please feel free to use it. It has been cleaned, so you can use it whenever you feel like. Let me know if you need anything else.”
“There’s nothing in particular, it’s already amazing.”
“It’s the same for me.”
“Then I’ll bring the children that will be helping with the shop tomorrow, so please take your time to rest today.”

The next day, I went to the orphanage and brought the six children that would be working at the shop.
The children had already come to the shop several times.
They were the ones who took care of the weeds in the garden, and trimmed the branches.
The rooms on the second floor were also cleaned by them.

When we arrived at the shop, the delicious scent of freshly baked bread was already drifting in the air.
We entered the shop and went into the kitchen. There, we saw Morin-san and Karin-san already baking bread.
If I knew that they were making it now, I wouldn’t have eaten breakfast before coming here…

“Hello.”
“Yuna-san, good morning.”

Karin-san came to greet me.
Morin-san was taking care of baking bread.

“Did you sleep well?”
“Yes, I was really tired, so I fell asleep the moment I got in bed.”
“That’s great.”

Morin-san also came over.

“Yuna-chan, good morning.”
“You’re already making bread?”
“I wanted to see how to adjust the stone oven. I had some ingredients to make bread, so I practiced a little during the night.”

In the end, she examined everything as soon as I left?

“So, how was the stone oven? If there is anything wrong with it, please let me know.”
“There are no problems. It’s a great stone oven. After this, I just have to bake bread, figure out the quirks of the oven, and gain some experience.”
“The quirks of the stone oven?”
“How the heat is distributed, or how much time it takes to heat up the oven. There are lots of quirks depending on the stone oven, and it changes how the bread is baked.”

That’s what a pro artisan is like.
Compared to me, I didn’t pay attention to anything when I was baking pizza.
Everything was so random in comparison.
So that’s why she could bake delicious bread.

“So are those the children that will be helping me with the store?”

She saw the children standing behind me.
The children went to the front and greeted them.

“Can you teach these children how to make bread? It’s okay if you don’t want to.”
“There’s no problem. You taught me how to make pudding, so I won’t do something as rude as refusing to teach them.”
“Then, you’ll all learn how to make bread in the mornings, and you can then take the bread you’ve made back to the orphanage.”

The children energetically responded.

Chapter 77
Bear-san Thinks Of A Name For The Shop

The shop's preparations were gradually coming to an end.
There was just one problem.
The shop's name had yet to be decided.
When I discussed the issue with Morin-san, she said:

"It's your shop, so Yuna-chan should decide."

However, I had absolutely zero naming sense.
It was to the point where I used my real name in games, because I had absolutely no confidence in my naming sense.
That was why I decided to ask everyone I knew for a name.
The next day, I assembled all the people I was indebted to and made a tasting party.
The people who would be participating included the staff: Morin-san, Karin-san, and the six children helping the shop. Mylene-san and Helen-san. Terumi-san and Fina, the parent and child duo that had always taken care of me. Liz, who always took care of the children. Helena, from the inn. And finally Noa, who came back from the capital.
These 15 people.

I immediately asked them for a name.

"The Bear's Bakery"
"Bear-san's Dining Hall"
"The Bear Pizzeria"
"The Bear and Pudding"
"Bear-san's Food Shop"
"Bear-san's…"
"The Bear's…"

Names with 'Bear' in it were suggested continuously.

"Ummm…why do they all contain 'Bear'?"
"Because…"
"That's…"
"Right…"

All of their gazes turned towards me.
Hm. Right.
Still, I wasn't the one who would be cooking, you know.

"Ah, I thought about the uniform for the staff here, but…"
"The uniform?"

Mylene-san said something like that.

"Didn't you see it in the capital? The clothes that were used by the staff."

Ah, the thing that looked like an apron.
When we went to a big restaurant, everyone was wearing the same clothes.
It was certainly cute.
There were uniforms in Japan's fast food restaurants and formal restaurants as well.
A uniform in another world, wouldn't it be maid or butler clothes?
I think it would suit the children.

"Yeah, I'm okay with uniforms."

I answered while imagining maid clothing.

"Right?"
"For now, I made one to see if it's good."

Mylene-san brought out a set of clothes(?) from her item bag.
She said she would bring out a uniform, but why did she bring out a piece of fur?
In one movement, Mylene-san spread out the fur.
(TL note: the ? was in the raw)

"A bear?"
"Yes, this is Yuna-chan's shop, so it has to be a bear, right?"

It was a bear costume.

"Mill-chan, was it? Want to try it on?"

There's no way she would want to wear something so embarrassing.

She would definitely refuse it.

“Is it okay?”

She said, looking happy.

“She’s so lucky.”
“No fair!”
“I want to wear it too!”

The children started to say that once they saw it.
Having received the costume, Mill’s face was filled with joy, while the other children’s faces were filled with envy.
That also included the faces of Fina and Noa, who were also there.
Mill started to change her clothes right on the spot.
Even if the boys were younger, a girl of her age taking off her clothes in front of people, wasn’t she embarrassed? It may be because she was living in the small orphanage with people she considered as siblings.
I had to remember to make separate changing rooms for boys and girls.
A girl had to think about herself more.

“How is it?”

Mill, while happily wearing the bear costume, twirled around.
Why…why are you so happy?!
It was certainly cute, but…
No words of denial were coming out.

“It suits you well.”
“So lucky.”
“Cute!”
“It’s made with wolf’s fur, but it’s quite a success.”
“Will we be wearing this while doing our job？”
“Yes, as long as we have Yuna-chan’s permission.”
“Big Sis Yuna, I want to wear it too!”
“Me too!”
“And me!”

Hmmm…The boys wanted to wear it, too?

The children seemed to be happy, and it wasn't like I was the one who would be wearing it while working, so I accepted the idea.

"Wait, do I also have to wear one?"

Karin-san was looking at the uniform that Mill was wearing.

"The children look cute, but I…"
"I think that it will suit Karin-san too."
"Mylene-san, what would you think if you were the one wearing it?"
"I am in my twenties, but Karin-san is seventeen, right? That'll be cute enough."

So, she was older than me.
That made me a little happy, I think.
In Japan, a 17-year-old was equivalent to a second year high school student. I wasn't Mylene-san, but I also thought that it was safe for high schoolers.

"I can't serve customers in those embarrassing clothes."

Embarrassing clothes… Why did you say that in front of the ones who will be wearing it?

"I'll make bread with mother in the kitchen."
"We can't let the children be alone for the service, you know. That's why the floor manager will be Karin-san."
"But…"
"Just in case, you will do some rotations with Morin-san."
"Uuuu…"

It wasn't something you had to hate so much, you know. What about me, who walked the streets of the town and the capital city with it?
Even more so, we met at the capital city while I was wearing this costume.

"The uniform has been decided to be a bear, so the name has to be one too, right?"
"Before that, I have a question."
"What is it?"
"The gloves will be a hindrance for the work, but won't you make the shoes?"
"You are right, huh. Let's make it. And Yuna-chan, can I ask you to sponsor the uniforms? We will give the money to make them."

I haven't sold the wolf pelts yet, so I had lots of them. Even if I didn't have enough pelts, I still had the 5000 wolves that hadn't been dismantled from the monster horde.

"Okay. I want a lot of them after all. Three sets per person."
"That many?"
"If I were to increase the number of workers, they would be able to wear it, right? The children are all around the same height after all."
"I can make as many as you want if you give me the wolf pelts, but you will have to pay for them next time."

The uniform was not what I originally had in mind, but it had been decided. Now, I had to decide the shop's name.

"What will we do about the shop's name?"

We all thought about the shop's name again.
After a long discussion, it had been decided.

『Bear-san's Relaxing Shop』 was chosen.

The waiters and waitresses would all wear bear costumes.
The only one who was opposed to that idea, Karin-san, was ignored.
Though, I wouldn't be working there, so it had nothing to do with me.

Chapter 78
Bear-san Opens The Shop

Mylene-san said that she would prepare the signboard at the Commerce Guild.
Since the name of the shop was 『Bear-san's Relaxing Shop』, the idea of making the shop more Bear-like came up.
Everyone suggested doing something that looked similar to the Bear House, so that the customers would understand why it was named 『Bear-san's Relaxing Shop』.
A Bear-like shop, what sort of shop was that!?
Did I have to make the entire shop look like a bear, like the Bear House?
Many different ideas were suggested up. In the end we decided on the shop's name and the uniform, and then the tasting party ended.
After everyone went back, I, who stayed at the shop, started to make the shop look like a 『Bear-san's Relaxing Shop』.

First, I made two deformed bears with earth magic and put them at the entrance. They were like character figurines.
In Japan, there were character figurines called nendoroids.
I made the bears with those nendoroids as reference.
I used clay.
They were one color.
I really wanted more colors…
I tried making them while using magic to assemble different kinds of colored earth.
Of course, I couldn't really make beautiful colors, but it was cuter this way when compared to being just one color.
Magic was really convenient.

Next, I made some bears on the second floor, where they would stand out, and some more on the roof.
I figured the store would look good with that.

Then I went to the garden.
We weren't going to do a café terrace, but since it was visible from the interior of the shop, I decided to arrange it.
A bear near a tree, a bear in the middle of a punch, a bear and her cub, and a sleeping bear. This would do for the decorations.

After that, I entered the shop and put little bears striking different poses in the center of each table.
I decorated the tables with a standing bear, a fighting bear, a sleeping bear, a running bear, bears on top of each other, a dancing bear, and a bear holding a sword.
Once I finished the tables, I made bears climb and hang randomly on the walls and pillars.
I decorated the interior of the shop by putting figurines here and there.
I thought it would be fine with this.
When I was satisfied, Karin-san came down from the second floor.

"Yuna-san, what are you doing?"
"I made it more Bear-like."
"It's really cute. If you saw those types of bears in the forest, you wouldn't be afraid, right?"

Karin-san poked one of the table bears.

"Will clients come here?"

She asked worriedly.
An unknown location, a new store, a new kind of food. I guess she had those kinds of worries.

"I think they will come. I asked people to advertise it in different places too. Also, we have pizza, pudding, potato chips, fries, and Morin-san's bread, after all."
"The potatoes were delicious. I didn't know that the poison was in the eyes."

I brought them out during the taste testing, and since it was really popular, we decided that it would be sold in the shop.
Well, you wouldn't die from the poison.
The problem was the distribution.
After the taste test, I was really worried about the stockpile of potatoes and cheese.

"The hamburger was really good, too. I didn't know that putting the bread made by mother together with cheese, meat, and vegetables would be this good."
"I am a little worried about the stock of cheese, you see. Depending on the sales rate, it is possible that we won't have enough of it…"

A lot of cheese was used for the pizza.

“Where did you buy the cheese?”
“I bought it from a grandpa who was selling it in the capital.”
“In the capital? Then…”
“There isn’t a problem. I asked him where his village was, so when we start running out, I will go buy some.”
“And the potatoes?”
“They normally arrive next month, but if it isn’t in time, I will have to go and buy them myself.”
“I hope clients will come, that’s all.”
“That will depend on everyone’s efforts.”

The shop’s opening was planned to be two days after the signboard was finished.
The signboard was supposed to be finished in three days, so the shop would open in five days.
Everyone’s uniforms, except for Morin-san’s, would be prepared for that day as well.

The next day, Terumi-san and Fina came to help with the shop.
When they saw the bear figurines I made yesterday, they froze.

“Big Sis Yuna…W…W…What are those!?”
“They are bears. Everyone said that I had to make something that is Bear-like, like the Bear House, so I made them. Is it no good?”
“It’s not that! It’s terribly cute!”

Were they shocked because there were no figurines in this world?
When I thought of all the statues I had seen, there were only realistic stone statues.

“They are cute, but if it’s like this, the male customers will have problems entering.”

Terumi-san gave her impressions while looking at the figurines.
She was right.
There would be more male customers asking for pizza and hamburgers.
The girls would be asking for pudding and potato chips.

“Then, do I make a more realistic bear?”
“If you do that, the girls would be the ones having a hard time entering.”
“Then, what do I do?”

I knew that the answer wasn't here.
Therefore, I went to find someone with experience in sales.
I asked Morin-san and her daughter, who were looking at the ingredient stockpile.

"I don't know. I have never seen a shop this strange in the capital, after all."
"Won't it be okay if you just think about it after the shop opens? We don't know how many clients will come in, after all."

The two of them said.
Just in case, I had begun the advertisement yesterday.
I left some leaflets at the Commerce Guild, the Adventurer's Guild, Helena's Inn, and other places that took care of me.
I also asked Cliff to talk about it with his acquaintances.
With only this much, I didn't know how many customers would come for the opening day.

"You're right. For now, we don't even know if girls will come, and it's not decided that men won't come in. We will think about it after opening the shop."

The appointed day…
It was hell.
People, people, people, people, people, people, people, people…
At the beginning of the opening day, no one came.
I wanted to help out in the background for the opening day.
We opened the store and, after we had waited for some time, the first client was the guild master of the Adventurer's Guild.

"Hey, I came."
"Welcome."
"By the way, this is a strange shop."
"Like I thought. Was it hard to enter?"
"This bear? I don't really know. I think that it might be hard to enter for some people but…a bear that's so well made, won't the client be interested and want to see the interior?"
"Thanks. That's good to know. So, what will you order?"
"What do you recommend?"
"Pizza and hamburger are the main courses. The potatoes are the side dish, and pudding is a snack. Ask your stomach."

The method of ordering was like this: order at the counter at the back, pay, and then receive the food.
Pizza was the only thing that had to be baked after ordering, so you had to go to your seat first. It would be brought to you a little later, using number plates.

“I see. Then, since I have time and someone advised me to get the pizza, so I will go with that.”
“What will you drink? The pizza is oily, so I suggest having a refreshing drink.”
“Then, I will take Oren juice.”
“Understood. It will take some time to bake, so take this number plate and wait wherever you want.”

Immediately after Morin-san finished baking the pizza, the children brought it to the guild master.

“So this is a pizza.”

It was a S size pizza, enough for one adult.
(ED: S size = small size, probably. Literally written down as S in the raws.)

“Then, thanks for the food.”

The guild master started eating a piece.
He ate two, three pieces…
The guild master’s hands didn’t stop, and the whole pizza quickly disappeared. After he finished, he drank the Oren juice in one gulp.

“It was delicious.”
“I am happy that it pleased you.”
“Are the other things delicious too?”
“All I can say is that you will have to see for yourself. Everyone has different preferences, after all.”
“I see, what do I have to do to ask for something else?”
“You have to go to the counter and pay for a new order.”
“I see.”

The guild master got up and went to ask for a hamburger.
He ate it while looking happy, and then left the store satisfied.

After some time, people started trickling in.
They all started by timidly eating the unknown food, but when they had finished, they went back satisfied.
However, there weren't many clients for now.
I forced myself to make 300 servings of pudding, but at this pace, it would hold out for a few days.

…There was a time when I thought this.
The people who came and ate in the morning might have talked about it.
At lunch, male and female customers came, regardless of the bear statues.
Did the guild master recommend us? People related to the guild came, and people I remembered seeing in the Commerce Guild also came.
Pizza, hamburgers, bread, and potato fries were all selling.
None of us could take a break, and we were constantly moving around the kitchen.
Lunchtime ended, and right when I thought that it would calm down, more customers came in, one after another.
The customers who came in after lunch mainly ordered pudding and potato related things.
The people who were preparing the potatoes with oil were really going through a hard time.
The pudding was in the fridge, so we just had to take them out.
The price of the pudding was a little high, even if the price of eggs had dropped. Even then, the female customers didn't stop buying them.
The 300 servings of pudding vanished.
The last piece of bread also disappeared, so we decided to close the shop before dinner and told the customers who came to go back.

"So tired~"
"Yes, I am exhausted too."

I kidnapped Terumi-san and Fina, who came to see how the store was doing, to make them help in the kitchen.

"Why were there so many customers?"
"When I asked, the men said that they came after hearing about it from the guild master and Helen. The girls said that Mylene-san highly praised the pudding."

The customers who came also talked about it afterwards.
I couldn't thank or hate the three of them.

“It is not looking good for tomorrow.”

Morin-san said, after seeing what happened today.

“Morin-san, how was it in the kitchen?”
“Let’s see…For now, we don’t have enough stone ovens for the number of pizza orders. On the other hand, after looking at the potato orders, we can do some more of them, so it’s okay. However, it will be difficult to prepare everything after the shop closes. If we don’t prepare well, it will have the same result as today.”

She was right.
The ingredients we had prepared were nearly gone.
Morin-san’s bread and the pudding.
There wasn’t enough bread dough.

“I see, then we will open the shop for lunch. We will prepare in the morning and eat our own lunch. We will close the shop before dinner.”
“You could earn money if you open for dinner, though?”

Terumi-san asked.

“In all honesty, I don’t plan to make money from this shop, so it’s okay.”
“Really?”
“It’s fine if it’s not a deficit. As it is now, it is already profitable. I am also worried about the stockpile of eggs, cheese, and potatoes.”
“You’re right, huh. There is a limit to the egg supply, after all.”
“In order to increase the opening hours of the store, the number of employees and ingredients will have to be increased as well.”
“Selling too much will cause troubles too, huh. I didn’t know that.”
“For now, Terumi-san, can you ask Liz about the number of children who can be assembled without affecting the job of caring for the birds?”
“Understood.”
“And also, Terumi-san, can you work here after lunch? Of course, I will pay you for this too.”
“Let’s see, the egg exchange finishes in the morning, so it won’t be a problem. But, is it really okay to change the opening time all of a sudden? Considering the rate of customers we had today, won’t they start coming during morning?”

That was right.
There were customers we refused due to the lack of ingredients as well.
There was a great chance that many clients would come in the morning.

“Morin-san, is it possible to open the shop in the morning just for tomorrow?”
“If we start preparing now…we could do it. But…”

I looked at Morin-san and the children.
The children were dozing off in the chairs.
They were probably really tired after their first day of service.
In this world, children also worked.
However, in every world, children were children.
They weren’t slaves, so I had to let them rest.

Hmmm, what could I do?
After some thought, I decided to prioritize the children over the customers.

“Like I thought, we will open at lunchtime starting from tomorrow.”
“Is that okay?”
“For now, we will do what we can. Terumi-san, please go to the shop where the pamphlets were displayed.”
“But, what will we do about the customers who come first thing in the morning?”
“We will ask them to come back for lunch.”
“Won’t they be angry?”
“I will do something about it.”
“Something, huh…”

Terumi-san seemed worried.

“We will also have one day off a week.”
“Day off?”

People in this world worked as much as possible, and on top of this, they didn’t have any holidays.
I had never seen inns and restaurants close, not even once.
To counterbalance this, there were periods of free time during the day when they could do whatever they wanted.
However, there was no free time in this shop.

During operating hours, you had to deal with customers, and when that was over, you had to clean and prepare for the next day. There was a lot of things to do.

“A day when we won’t open. A day when it’s fine to go shopping or sleep. It’s a day off so that you can work well on the other days.”
“Is it okay to have a day off? The sales will decrease, you know!”
“Truthfully, I wanted to have shifts of days off, but there isn’t enough people, you see. Also, at this rate, the eggs would disappear. I prepared multiple days worth of eggs today, but there are a limited number of eggs laid per day, so it’s impossible to make more than what we did today.”
“You’re right, we can’t really decrease the number of eggs we’re selling to the Commerce Guild, after all.”

I had already had them lower the number of eggs that were sold to the Commerce Guild, in order to open the shop.

“That’s why, with the current circumstances, we don’t have to force ourselves to open the shop.”
“The new thing to think about is a method of increasing the number of eggs.”

Should we hatch the eggs? Should I go back to capture more cluckers? Those were the two possibilities.
If we hatched the eggs, the number of eggs being sold would diminish.
If we had to capture more cluckers, I would have to go myself.
That was really troublesome.
I decided to think about it later.

“When you change the schedule, could you please mark the day off as well?”
“Okay.”
“After that is the store’s interior. Was there anything troublesome?”
“The customers apparently wanted to take the bears.”

That’s right, I saw some clients trying to take the bears on the tables.
However, I made it so that they were fixed to the tables and you couldn’t take them off.

“There were some customers saying that they wanted us to give the bears to them.”
“I think I will put up a poster saying that they are not for sale. Was there anything else?”

I asked the group in charge of the shop's interior.

"The people lining up at the counter…"
"There were some who were angry because they had to wait for some time."
"Then we will make another counter for tomorrow. There were also many customers who came just for the pudding, so we will put a fridge next to the counter to buy some time."

The opening day finished on this note.
It seemed that Morin-san and the children had some more work to do as preparations for tomorrow.
If the bread dough and the pudding weren't made now, they wouldn't be ready for tomorrow.
I decided to go back, leaving everything to the pros.
Only the stone oven was needed first thing in the morning, so I made it before going back.

Chapter 79
Bear-san Makes A Request At The Adventurer's Guild

Author's note:
I made some changes to the previous chapter.
There was no talk about the opening hours after all.
To explain it simply, it's a talk about how changing the opening hours like that would entail troubles.
Today's story is about how they will deal with that.

So that people would learn about the change of opening hours even a little bit, I asked Tirumina-san to edit the posted pamphlets.
Even so, there would still be people who came without knowing about it.
To deal with this problem, I went to the Adventurer's Guild.

"Yuna-san, what are you doing here at this hour?"

I saw Helen coming out of the guild.

"Helen-san, are you going back now?"
"Yes, it's closing time now, after all. What's the matter, Yuna-san?"
"I came here to make a request."
"A request?"
"Yes. I want to erase the troubles in advance, you see."
"Troubles?"

I explained what happened today.

"That's why I thought of changing the opening hours for tomorrow, but…There will surely be people who will not know and will come earlier. It would be great if they went back after we apologized, but…"
"And that's why you want to make a request?"
"There are only women and children working at our shop, after all. That's why I want to hire adventurers who would protect them from violent customers."

“That’s right, there are children at your shop, aren’t there? In that case, you have no other choice.”
“For now, I would like guards for one week, but are there adventurers who would accept this job?”
“That depends on the money you are willing to pay, I think. Adventurers are people who move for money, after all.”
“Money, huh. I don’t really know the market prices, so how much would I have to pay?”

Even if they were expensive, thinking about the security, it would be a small price to pay.
If I was stingy here and the children were harmed, I wouldn’t know how to face the director of the orphanage.
In order to avoid that, I wanted to recruit some guards.

“Hmm, that would depend on the rank of the adventurer you want to hire. The content of the request is to protect the shop. If the other party is a normal citizen, a low rank adventurer is okay, but in case a higher rank adventurer goes wild, a low rank adventurer would not be enough to face him.”

I didn’t think there would be such outlaws, but there was the case of Deborane, who I saw at the Adventurer’s Guild.

“Yuna-chan and Helen-san, what are you doing?”

The one who appeared was Rurina-san, who I went to kill the goblins with.
I saw her a number of times after the goblin subjugation.
Deborane and his party members were standing behind Rurina-san.
Deborane, who was punched by me, the silent Gill, and the bad-mouthed Lanz were all there.
The whole party appeared.

Even so, why in the world was Rurina-san with those people?
Was it possible that she had a hobby of assembling low quality products?

“Yuna-chan, are you thinking something rude?”

Was it possible that she had a skill to read my mind?

“I was thinking why would a beauty like Rurina-san be in that sort of party.”

“I am not an official member, you know. Just a temporary one. As you can see, this party is an assembly of no-brain idiots.”

Yes, she was right, those three were real muscle-brains…

“So I decided to make a party with them. It dragged on for some time, and before I knew it we were together until this day.”
“Let’s just be an official party already!”
“I don’t wanna. If I had to make a party, I would like to make one with someone cute, like Yuna-chan.”

She said while embracing me.
Ever since I princess carried Rurina-san, she liked to randomly touch the Bear clothes.

“Anyways, what happened, Yuna-chan?”
“I was thinking about requesting guards to protect the shop.”
“The shop? The one from the rumors?”
“I don’t know what the rumors say, but it’s this shop. There might be some trouble tomorrow.”
“Trouble?”
“The shop opened today, but there were some problems, so from tomorrow onwards, the opening hours will change. Because there is a possibility of intrusion from the customers tomorrow, and possibility of threats, I thought of hiring adventurers to gently turn them away.”
“I see. Then, want to hire us?”
“Is it okay? It would help me a lot, though.”
“There is no problem.”
“Don’t decide on your own, Rurina.”

Rurina, on the verge of accepting the offer, was stopped by someone.

“Deborane?”
“I won’t do it!”
“If Deborane-san says so, I won’t do it either.”
“…”

When Deborane opposed it, Lanz opposed it too.
As always, Gill didn’t open his mouth, not accepting or refusing.

“I see, then this is the end of this temporary party.”
“Wait, this…”
“There is no other choice, right? If you use me when you need me, but you don’t help me when I need you, I don’t want to be in your party.”

After Rurina-san said so, she looked at me.

“Yuna-chan, is it okay if it’s just me?”
“I will do it too.”
“Gill?”
“I heard that the food was delicious. If you are going to give me some, I will help too.”
“Gill, are you betraying us?”
“She helped us last time. And, I agree with Rurina’s words.”
“Thanks, Gill.”

Rurina-san expressed her thanks.
Gill was always silent, but he seemed to be someone decent.

“Do what you want! We are going, Lanz!”
“Yes, Deborane-san.”

The two of them went away, leaving Rurina-san and Gill.

“Is it okay?”
“It’s okay. During the previous incident involving Yuna-chan, I was already thinking about leaving them, but they stopped me. I stayed until today, but it was time to end it.”
“When you stop being an adventurer, come and tell me, please. We are in need of talented people.”
“I will count on you when the time comes.”

I decided to accept this as her being polite.
However, if she really stopped being an adventurer, there were a lot of things I wanted her to help with.
In Rurina-san’s case, there were no problems when it came to personality or ability.

“Talking about the guard request, I want to hire you for one week. Is it okay?”
“Yes, there is no problem. And for this request reward, can I also ask for meals?”
“I will properly provide food and money, no problem.”

“Excuse me, you two, please accept the request properly through the guild, okay?”

Helen-san’s suggestion was the right thing to do.
Entering the guild, I gave a request, and Rurina-san accepted it.
The reward was the『Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop』’s food and some silver coins.

I had obtained some guards, so I went back to the Bear House.
I might have not done much, but for a hikikomori like me, it was a really tiring day.
I entered the Bear Bath, and cleansed my body and soul.
I knew it, the cultures with baths were the best.
I exited the Bear Bath, put on the white bear, and dived into my futon.

The next day, when I went to the shop, the two of them were already there.

“Good morning.”
“Good morning, Yuna-chan”
“…”

The one who responded was Rurina-san.
Gill was silent, like usual.

“The shop is exactly as the rumors say.”
“What are they, those rumors? You talked about them yesterday too.”
“It’s not something strange, you know. The fact that the new Bear adventurer made a shop is widespread, and the people say that the shop looks like a mansion, that there is a really delicious scent coming from it, and that the children working here ressemble Yuna-chan…It’s these sorts of rumors.”

She was right, there was nothing strange. All the things she said were true, but for some reason, I felt like I couldn’t accept that.

“So, what do we have to do?”
“I said it yesterday, but if customers come too early, I want you to say that the shop won’t open before lunch. After that, it would be great if they just went back, but…”
“Well, Gill is here too, so there won’t be any idiots who will dare complain.”

She hit the mass of muscles on Gill’s back.

“They are customers, so try to not be violent.”

“That’s for sure! I won’t do anything to normal people. The worst case would just be threatening them.”
“If it doesn’t work, call me. I will deal with them.”

I told the two of them, then entered the shop.
When I entered, the delicious scent of baked bread reached me.
In both worlds, a bakery started early in the morning.
When I went to the kitchen, I could see the children and Morin-san moving around.
Morin-san and her daughter were baking bread. Some children were watching from nearby, in order to learn the technique.
It could be great if I took some of them to the capital after a few years.
The other children were doing their best to prepare the dough and pudding.
They were making tomorrow’s share.
Last night, they made enough for today, and they were now making tomorrow’s share.

“Big Sis Yuna, good morning.”

When one of them saw me, all of the children started greeting me happily.
But I noticed the weariness on their faces.
Morin-san and her daughter seemed okay because they were accustomed to it, but the children were tired doing a job they were not familiar with.
Yesterday, they made preparations for today until late at night, too.
Even more, they started working early today.

They should be able to sleep tonight, so if they could bear with it today, it would be okay.
However, it was a job that involved fire and oil, so it would be dangerous if they worked while being tired.
I walked around the kitchen, and put the Bear Paw on the heads of the children.

“Big Sis Bear?”

A girl tilted her head when I suddenly put the paw on her head.

『Heal.』
“Hold on a little more, okay? You will be able to rest tonight.”

I put a strength restoration spell on all of the children.
With this, it would be okay now.

The children, not understanding what happened, tilted their heads.
I did a last check of the interior of the shop before going back to where Rurina-san was.
When I went out, I saw Rurina-san explaining things to a customer.
The client went back obediently, after receiving the explanation.

“Are you okay?”
“Yes, there were no problems. When we explained it to them, they all went back. Well, I think it’s thanks to Gill, too.”
“I was just standing here, though.”
“With Gill just standing behind me, all the customers listened to what I had to say, so it was a big help.”
“…”

It seemed there were no normal citizens that could go against adventurers.

“And, was it okay when adventurers came?”
“It was even less of a problem. Who do you think this shop belongs to?”
“Hmm, it’s mine?”
“Exactly. It’s Yuna-chan’s shop. The adventurer who crushed more than ten adventurers on her first visit to the guild, killed the Goblin King, and, on top of that, even killed a Black Viper. There are no idiots who would want to pick a fight with you. If there were, it would be newbies or adventurers who are not from this town. If there was one, that would be Gill’s job.”
“Leave it to me.”
“Thanks. When the shop opens, you will be able to eat whatever you want.”

Finally, I went inside the shop to help the others.

Chapter 80
Bear-san And The Second Opening Day

While I was dealing with some tasks, Rurina-san came looking troubled.

“Yuna-chan, could you come here for a second?”
“Something happened?”
“Yeah, a little. A child that neither Gill nor I can handle came.”
“Who came?”
“A noble girl.”

There was just one noble girl I could think of, though…
First of all, I didn’t even know how many nobles there were there in this town, so she might not be the one I was thinking about.

“If it is just a normal noble, I can do something about it, but…”

We exited the kitchen, and as we went towards the entrance, we could see a blond girl charging at Gill through the glass windows.
There was no doubt, she was the person I knew.

“Let me enter! I have some business with Yuna-san!”
“Wait a little. Someone just went to call Yuna.”

Gill was blocking the entrance.
I knew it. The noble girl was Noa.
The two were glaring at each other.
It was no good just looking at the two of them, so I decided to go out and intervene.

“Noa, what are you doing?”
“Yuna-san!”
“…”
“The two of them won’t let me come inside.”
“Well, I asked the two of them to be guards until the store opens after all. You two noticed that Noa was a noble, huh.”
“I saw her a number of times with the feudal lord after all.”
“So, why are you here, Noa?”

“That’s not the problem! You didn’t come to see me at all, so today I decided to come and see you, but… What is this shop?!”

Noa was pointing at the bear sculptures.

“When I came here the other day, there was nothing like this…”

Her face swelled when she got angry.

“So, what did you come for today?”
“I came to eat pudding of course.”

It was before the opening hours, but I couldn’t really tell her to go back, so I brought Noa into the shop.
The moment Noa entered, her movement stopped.

“Wh, wh, what is this!!!”

Noa started shouting.
Noa approached me and grasped one of my Bear Hands.

“Please do the same to my house!!”
“Cliff would get angry, you know.”
“I will persuade him!!”
“Please don’t. Calm down and have this instead.”

I made a Bear Nendoroid that was waving its hand and gave it to Noa.

“Thank you very much! I will treasure it for life!”
“You don’t have to.”

I would be troubled if she cherished a doll made from earth as a lifelong treasure.
While Noa was carefully holding the doll, she was touring the interior of the store to see other sculptures and said one phrase.

“I want all of them.”

I ignored those words, of course.

“While I am thinking about it, how are you doing recently?”
“Because I went to the capital, my studies were delayed, so my father assigned me a home tutor.”

Well, it wasn’t wrong that we just played while we were in the capital city.
If you were a noble’s child, you had to study.
It was better to have intelligent nobles than idiot ones.

“But father is horrible! He won’t let me go outside at all!”
“Isn’t it because you were lazy that it became like this?”
“I think some relaxation time is needed.”
“Then, I will give you a pudding, so do your best with your studies!”

For now, I guided Noa to a seat.
If I left Noa alone she would just run around, exploring the inside of the shop without end, so I made her sit down.
But even when seated, she was turning her head all around to see the interior of the shop.

“It is a little early, but do you want to eat something other than pudding too?”
“Is it okay?”
“Yes. Almost everything we serve is easy to make, so we can bring it to you relatively fast. Ah, but you can only have one pudding cup. We don’t have a lot them after all.”

Noa asked for a pudding, a small pizza, and an Oren juice.

“The shop isn’t open?”
“Not yet.”

I briefly explained what happened yesterday.

“That can’t be helped. After eating it the first time, I also wanted to present it to other people.”
“But this number was really outside the expectations.”
“You are too naive, Yuna-san. You are too naive if you think so little of this pudding. I really wish you could have seen the dining hall when the pudding was brought during the king’s birthday.”

She scooped a spoonful of pudding, and presented it to me before putting it in her mouth.

“I heard a little of it from the king, like how lots of people were asking to see the chef, or something like that.”
“That’s absolutely normal! When the pudding was brought in, all the people present tilted their heads at the new food they had never ever seen before. But, because the king recommended it, all of them tried it, and the hall became a really big mess.”

Hmm… this was more terrifying than what I heard before, but…

“Nobody ever ate something so delicious. That’s why there was a big uproar in the hall. Nobody knew the methods of preparing it or even the ingredients used. Even the nobles, who only ate high class meals, couldn’t think of what it could be.”

With just pudding, it became such an incident…

“But the king didn’t reveal the recipe or who was the one that made it. Of course, I knew it, so I was looking at them while laughing.”
“Is it possible that we are in a pinch?”
“What are you talking about?”
“I was thinking that if they know we are selling it here, they will pressure us to reveal the recipe…”

If that was the case, the children could be in danger.

“I think it will be okay, you know. The king said something like this: 『The one who made this is my best friend. The food will be sold at the place where it is made. If someone damages the store, or harms anyone who is working there, you will be punished.』”

That meant that the king told all of the nobles that we were best friends??

“And the king directly ordered father to look out for Yuna-san, so if something happens, you can just go and see him.”

I had the backing of the king, huh.
Thinking of the children’s security, it was better protection.
I’ll receive the “best friend” title with much gratitude.

Even if I didn't need it, it was not really something I could give back.

After talking with Noa for a while, I heard some troubles outside of the shop.
To confirm it, I went outside and there stood a lot of people.

"What happened?"

I asked Rurina-san.

"You see, when I said that the shop would open for lunch, they said that they would wait in advance."

I see.
There was less than 30 minutes before the opening.
It was not strange for customers to start lining up now.

"Rurina-san, make the customers form two beautiful lines. Make sure there are no people who disregard the lines or try to cut in line."
"Is it okay?"
"If they don't cause any problems, it's okay. It will cause troubles for Rurina-san, though."
"It's okay. I just have to arrange them in two lines, right?"
"Yes, I am counting on you."

Before the opening, we ate and left the entrance to the two guards.
When it was opening hour, there were around 30 people lined up.
Thanks to Rurina-san, there were no problems.
We managed to prepare 100 puddings, so it would be one per customer only.
After talking with Noa, I thought there would be a lot of demands for puddings, but there were more customers asking for hamburgers or pizzas. Was it because it was lunch time?

"Good job!"

I said some words of appreciation to the two of them.
Their job ended and they were seated at the seats prepared for them.

"There is really a lot of people, huh."

The customers who came this morning and the ones who knew the opening hours entered at the same time, so the shop was packed.

“Still, it’s really delicious, this pizza and this hamburger!”
“…”

In front of Rurina-san, Gill was eating silently.
I could just barely tell that he did not dislike it.

“Say if you want more. It’s okay for any item on the menu except for pudding.”
“That’s the pudding from the rumors, huh. I heard from Helen-san that it was delicious.”
“It’s sweet, so there might be some men that wouldn’t like it, though.”
“No problem. It’s delicious.”

Gill shared his impressions after eating one mouthful.

“Yes, it’s delicious. And we will be able to eat it for one week, that’s great.”
“You could be employed for life, you know. I have a lot of tasks I want you to do after all, Rurina-san.”
“That’s a wonderful temptation. Unfortunately, I also want to continue my job as an adventurer, you see.”
“Thinking about adventurers, what is Deborane doing?”
“Ah, him, huh. I thought about parting ways with him. After all, I was just a temporary member from the start. What will you do Gill?”
“I haven’t decided yet.”
“You can work at the shop too, Gill.”
“I can’t do anything else than fight.”
“That’s more than enough, you know. You could be a guard, and there are children who want to become adventurers, so I would like you to teach them how to fight as an adventurer.”

I thought that the children who wanted to become adventurers wanted to do so because of me.
I, the one who saved the children of the orphanage, was an adventurer, so it seemed that there were children who wanted to become adventurers like me too.
They wanted to become strong in order to protect the orphanage.

The director said that I wouldn't have to mind it because there were no places for the children of the orphanage to work even after they become adults, so there were a lot of them that became adventurers.
There was a place for them to work now though. That was why I didn't really want them to do something dangerous.

"And I need someone to protect the children when I'm not here, so I would have a lot for you to do!"
"I will think about it."

I thought he would refuse it, so I was really surprised that he responded this way.
I really thought he would say something like: 『I am more suited to be an adventurer.』

"You have time, you know. It's not a pressing matter."

The headhunting of those two has been put aside for now, but it was not something that needed to be resolved immediately, so I didn't really mind.

The second day finished without a problem and we closed the store.
The customers who came too late couldn't have any pudding, and I saw their dejected faces going back home.
The problem was, once again, the number of eggs.
If there were some leftovers, I wanted to make some sandwiches. If I made some, the egg sandwiches were a must (I wanted to eat them). *(TL note: parenthesis in the raws.)*

By the way, Noa had been dragged away by a butler.
She escaped during her lessons after all.
Noa asked me for help while crying, but I couldn't do anything.
The butler was dreadful.

Chapter 81
Bear-san Stocks Up On Food

A few days after the shop's opening.

The shop was doing great, without any troubles.
The only problems were the potato and cheese stocks.

I left the shop in Morin-san's and Tirumina-san's hands and went to the villages that made cheese and produced potatoes.
The nearest one was the village that produced potatoes.
I hopped on Swaying Bear and arrived there in less than half an hour.
Swaying Bear's speed had definitely increased.
I was right, it increased when my level increased. When I became stronger, my summoned beasts became stronger, too.
While thinking about that, I arrived close to the village gate and saw people going in and out. Thanks to my habit, I accidentally approached the gate while riding Swaying Bear.

"Who are you?!"

A man standing near the gate shouted while looking at me.
He must have been shocked, first thinking that a bear was approaching the village, and then, when it came closer, seeing a girl in a Bear-suit riding it.
Even I would be shocked if I saw something like that.

"I am Yuna, an adventurer. Is Zamal-san here?"
"Is it possible that you're the Bear girl who bought the potatoes in the capital?"

It seemed that he told the people of the village about me.

"Yeah, I am."
"Then come on in. I have heard the story."

The man was relieved to hear that I was the one that bought the potatoes.
Well, that couldn't be helped with the sudden appearance of a bear.
He brought me to a house near the center of the village.

“Zamal! The girl dressed like a bear came!”

Zamal-san came out of the house.

“It has been a while.”

I greeted him as a sign of friendship, but I couldn’t sense an ounce of hospitality from him.

“Did you perhaps come here to make a complaint because someone fell ill?”
“That’s not it! I don’t have enough potatoes so I came to buy more!”
“Are you kidding? You bought a huge amount of them at the capital, didn’t you?”
“The potatoes are now a popular product at my shop.”
“I can’t believe that.”

It couldn’t be helped, so I took some snacks out of the Bear Box.
It was potato chips and fried potatoes.

“These are the products made from potatoes.”

Zamal-san ate a slice of potato chips.

“It’s delicious…”
“It’s great as a snack, right? You just have to fry them in oil and add a little salt.”
“It has a fluffy texture and is really delicious.”
“This one is also made by just frying it in oil.”
“Is this really made of potatoes?”
“I also put them on pizza, so I really need a lot of them.”
“Pizza?”

It was impossible to understand if I just said the name, so I also took a pizza out of the Bear Box.

“This is pizza. Potatoes are necessary, even though they are not the main ingredient.”

Zamal-san ate the pizza.

“It’s delicious. Are the people in town really eating the potatoes I grew?”

Light tears were flowing down from his eyes.

“It doesn’t really matter if you believe me or not. Do you have potatoes?”
“Yeah, of course we have some.”
“I would like fresh potatoes if possible, so could you bring some to Crimonia every two weeks?”
“It takes three days to go there by carriage. I would have to stay one night in Crimonia, so it would take seven days for a round trip. It’s quite a tight schedule.”
“And what if you could go by horse, without having to transport potatoes?”
“If it’s like that, I wouldn’t need the carriage or any other luggage, so I could reduce the time to one day and a half. But if I don’t bring the potatoes, what would be the point of making the trip?”
“Here, take this.”

I gave him five of the item bags that I took from the thieves.

“These are?”
“Item bags. I have never used them, so I don’t know how much they can carry, but you can use them.”
“Is it okay? Giving me something like this?”
“Yeah, no problem. If Zamal-san doesn’t need to use all of them, you can give some of them to other villagers. It will be more convenient to transport things with this, won’t it? “
“It will help a lot.”
“In exchange, I will count on you to deliver twice a month.”
“Okay, you have my word. So how much will I have to transport each time? “
“For now, about as much as the previous time. For the next one, you can ask Morin-san, a worker at the『Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop』.”
“So, Morin, who is working at the『Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop』? Understood.”
“I will count on you then!”
“You are leaving already? I wanted to thank you though…”
“I still have somewhere else I need to go, after all.”

I summoned Hugging Bear and went towards the cheese village.
The bears would sulk if I didn’t take turns summoning them after all.

The cheese village was surprisingly close to the potato village.
It took me about half an hour on Hugging Bear.

When I approached the village, the distinctive smelly odor of a dairy farm was drifting through the air.
When I arrived at the farm, a man approached me.
He was carrying a lance and seemed to be on guard.
Was he startled by Hugging Bear?
To prove that I was not a dangerous person, I got down from Hugging Bear.

“A Bear suit?”

The man approached.

“Is it possible that you are the girl who bought cheese in the capital?”

He asked.

“Yeah, that’s right. Is the grandpa that sold me cheese in the capital here? I came to buy more.”
“Yes, I heard the story, please come this way.”

I returned Hugging Bear and followed the man.

“You heard about me?”
“Yes, the village chief said that if a girl in a Bear Suit comes, we have to let her come in. You are the benefactor who bought all of the cheese, so he told us gate guards to treat you kindly. “
“The security seems to be quite high, did something happen?”
“Recently, goblins appeared and attacked our livestock. That’s why we are patrolling.”

Goblins, huh.
Wherever I went, they were a harmful bunch.

There was a lot of livestock inside the village.
There were cows, pigs, and goats.
The man stopped in front of a house.

“Village chief! The girl who bought the cheese in the capital came!”

The grandpa who I bought the cheese from came out of the house.
So he was the village chief, huh.

“Oh, if it isn’t the Bear missy from that time! You really came, huh.”
“I told you I would come, right? I hope you didn’t forget the promise to sell the cheese cheaply if I came?”
“Of course. This is not a good place to talk, so please come inside.”
“Village chief, I will resume patrolling around the village.”
“Yes, I am counting on you!”

When I entered, the village chief offered me some white liquid.

“Here you go. It’s freshly squeezed cow milk.”

I took one mouthful. It tasted a little sweet. Really delicious.
I decided to buy some milk too, before going back.

“You came to buy cheese today?”
“Yes, but…is it possible that you don’t have a lot of it?”
“No, we have a lot of cheese. But, if things continue like this, we won’t be able to make it anymore.”

Those were words I couldn’t ignore.

“Why? Did something happen?”
“Goblins moved into the forest near the village. Those goblins came and attacked our livestock.”
“Did you post a request at the Adventurer’s Guild?”
“Yes, we posted a request using the money we got from selling the cheese to you, but…nobody came…”

I had heard that goblin subjugation requests weren’t really popular, but that was really the case, huh.

“Our village was strong enough to drive them away, but recently the number of Goblins increased and now we can only watch as the livestock are attacked…”

At this rate, it would be a great loss for this world, not being able to obtain cheese…
More than that, I would be troubled…

“I will go and exterminate them.”

“What are you saying!? A girl like you? Wait, before that, did you come to this village alone?”
“Yeah, I came alone. Don’t worry, I am an adventurer.”
“But…”
“Also, I would be really troubled if the cheese disappeared. That’s why there is no way I am abandoning this village!”

I got up to go and exterminate the goblins.

“Are you really going?”
“Yes, for the cheese’s sake!”

I went to the forest that the village chief was talking about.
When I used detection magic, I could see that there was quite a lot of goblins.
It’s been a while, but let’s do it alone!

I started running towards the goblins.
I rapidly finished it before going back.

“Yuna-san, you are back? Did you change your mind about going there?”

When I returned, village chief was waiting for me at the entrance of the village, looking worried.

“I defeated them. There are no more goblins inside the forest. And while I was at it, there were some orcs, so I killed them too.”
“Yuna-san, stop joking.”

I brought out the corpses of goblins and orcs I killed.
When I thought about it, I killed all the monsters, so there were none left in the neighbourhood.

“Yuna-san, what is this!?”
“It’s the evidence that I killed those monsters as I said.”
“You really went and killed all of the goblins?”

Thin tears were flowing from the village chief’s eyes.

“I can’t thank you enough.”

There was a pile of goblin's corpses, and the villagers who saw it started to assemble.

"Village chief, what is this?"
"Yuna-san killed them for us. There are no more goblins in the forest. That's why, we don't have to be frightened by them anymore. All of you, you also have to say your thanks to Yuna-san."

The village chief said something like that, so everyone started to say some words of thanks.

"If you want the magic stones, I will give them to you, so can you disassemble the monsters yourselves?"
"Is that okay?"
"In return, I have something I want to ask from you."
"What is it?"

The village chief asked while looking stressed.

"Could you bring cheese to Crimonia at fixed intervals?"
"That won't be a problem, but is just this okay?"
"It's okay. I will give you this, then."

I brought out five more item bags from the Bear box.

"Are these item bags?"
"It will be easier to transport things with them, won't it?"
"Yes, that's right, but…We don't have anything to thank you with, you know?"
"Don't worry about it. Letting the cheese disappear would be too great of a loss, after all."
"Saying so much about our cheese…"
"That's why, I am counting on you to give us delicious cheese, okay?"
"Yes, we understand. We will do our best to make it."

After this, I went around the village, and they showed me a lot of different livestock.
When I asked them if they could show me how to make cheese, they agreed happily, to my surprise.
Wasn't that the most guarded secret of this village???
When I asked this,

“We have nothing to hide from our benefactor, Yuna-san.”

Was their response.
I only killed the goblins, so having them think so much of it made me feel as if I did something bad.
Well, just because I learned how to make cheese didn’t meant that I would go and make it somewhere else.

After that, they threw a welcome party for me.
As thanks, in order for the people to know how splendid of an ingredient cheese was, I made a stone oven, made pizza with the village’s cheese, and served it to all of them.

Chapter 82
Bear-san And Some Free Time

Author's note:
I don't know.
It's a story linked with the trip to Shinten.
(TL: A place near Hiroshima.)

The shop was now doing well even without me, so I didn't have to go there recently.
The sales were great, Morin-san was trying to make new types of bread, and the children, who had gotten used to the work, were now doing it happily.
We also increased the number of new dishes.

Rurina-san and Gill also went back to their adventurer jobs.
The two of them left Deborane's party and accepted jobs alone or made temporary parties.
They often came to the store as customers.

I didn't have anything to do, so I decided to go to the capital using the transfer gate.
Even though the birthday party had ended, there were still a lot of people there.
I went to the castle to take pudding to Princess Flora.
When I arrived at the gate, the soldiers seemed to remember me and gave a relaxed greeting as I approached them.

"I want to go inside, is that okay?"

I presented my guild card to them.
There was a permit to enter the castle on my guild card, so that I could enter without any problems.
When the guard asked my reason for coming, I told him that I came to see Princess Flora.
As one would expect, I couldn't just go see the princess alone, so he said that I had to wait until he called Eleanora-san.

"Yuna-chan, it's been a while."
"It's been a while indeed, Eleanora-san."

“You came to see Princess Flora?”
“Yes, it’s been awhile since I came here, after all.”
“You came from Crimonia just for that?”
“It seems that I won’t be able to come here for some time, so…”
“Well, it’s not easy to come here all the time from Crimonia, right?”

For some reason, when we arrived to Princess Flora’s room, the king was inside.

“Your Highness, are you ditching work again?”
“Eleanora, I am not you. I am just on a break.”
“That’s some bad mouthing. I am here as a duty guide for Yuna-chan.”
“I am talking about your normal behaviour.”
“My normal behaviour? I am a mass of diligence. And why is the king in Princess Flora’s room?”
“That’s because I heard a report that Yuna was coming, of course. I knew that if she was coming, she would go to Flora’s room.”

While the two of them were bickering, Princess Flora approached me.

“Princess Flora, it’s been a while.”
“Bear-san, you came?”
“I promised you, after all.”

I brought out the pudding from the Bear Box.

“I brought some pudding, so let’s eat them together.”
“Yes.”

I brought out four servings of pudding and neatly lined them up on the table.
Seeing this, Eleanora and the king approached too.

“Thank you for what you did.”

I thanked the king for what he said during the birthday party.

“What is it, so suddenly?”
“It’s about the pudding. It seems that you have protected my shop for now, so…”

“It’s about that, huh. I forced you to prepare the pudding, so doing just that was absolutely no problem. If something does happen, you can ask either me or the Foschurose family’s Cliff for help.”
“Of course, you can work him hard, you know.”
“Also, I will give you this.”

I gave a piece of paper to the king.

“What is it?”
“The pudding recipe. Make some for Princess Flora, please.”
“Is it okay?”
“I don’t know when I will be able to come again, after all.”
“Understood. I will thankfully accept it. To keep it confidential, I will give the recipe to only my personal cook.”
“You don’t really have to keep it a secret, so don’t punish him if it is leaked.”

I didn’t want him to be executed because of the pudding recipe.

“Do not worry. It won’t even leak to the other royal cooks.”
“But there will be people who will want to steal it.”
“If there was someone who tried to steal a royal recipe, he would receive an appropriate punishment.”

The king’s smile was frightening…

“And it’s not really your fault that you can’t come here frequently, right? Crimonia is far, after all. I would be grateful if you just visited from time to time, so that my daughter is happy.”

I couldn’t tell them that I could come here instantly by using the Bear Transfer Gate.

“It’s just, I want to go to the sea, you see.”
“The sea?”
“There is a sea east of the capital, right?”

It was information I had received from the information gathering I did awhile back.

“So, you are going to the sea, huh?”
“I want some ingredients from the sea, after all.”

“A food hunt again?”
“If you forget the happiness of eating food, you lose something really important in life!”
“You are right.”

The king ate a mouthful of pudding.

“It would be great if there was a sea near Crimonia.”
“There is, you know?”
“…Huh?”

I froze when I heard the information coming out of Eleanora-san’s mouth.

“Oh, you are talking about that, right?”
“What are you talking about?”
“You know how there is a big mountain northeast of Crimonia?”

I nodded.
There was a big mountain that you could see from the town. You could even say that it was a mountain range.

“If you cross that mountain, you’ll be able to reach the sea, you know. But well, it’s quite difficult to cross or to get around it.”

So there was a sea on the other side of the mountain, huh.
If you were talking about distance, it was close.

“There is even a town over there, you know. It is difficult to reach it without a boat, but, with Yuna-chan’s bears, you could do it, I think?”
“Yuna’s bears?”

The king tilted his head.

“Yuna-chan has bears she can summon, you know?”
“You can even do something like that?”

Eleanora-san explained everything for me.
She explained every single detail, telling them that there were two of them, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

Upon listening to this story, Princess Flora's eyes were sparkling.
The king looked interested too, so after the talk, I was asked to summon the two of them.
Was it really okay to summon them in the princess's room?

"Is it really okay?"
"I don't mind."

For now, since I had permission, I summoned Hugging Bear.

"It's really a bear."
"Bear-san!"

Princess Flora approached Hugging Bear.
The king was only looking and didn't try to stop her.
Doesn't he have any sense of crisis?

"Who are you really?"
"I am a D-rank adventurer."
"Are there any D-rank adventurers who can exterminate more than 10,000 monsters…? "
"Now that I think about it, Yuna-chan, you killed more than 10,000 monsters, but stayed at D-rank?"
"That's because it was an unknown A-rank party that killed all of the monsters, you see ."
"It would have been better if we just revealed your name…"
"Don't wanna."
"You don't want to stand out, even though you are wearing clothes that stand out, something like that, right?"

She said that while looking as if she had given up on the issue.

I wanted to go back quickly after dropping off the pudding, but Princess Flora didn't want to leave Hugging Bear, so I stayed at the castle until evening.

Chapter 83
Bear-san Climbs The Mountain

“Are you really going there?”

Terumi-san asked me with a worried look .
At the orphanage, I told Terumi-san and Fina that I would go to the sea by crossing the mountain range.

“I want to see the sea, after all. That’s why, I will leave the shop in your hands.”

Even if I didn’t specifically say it, the shop was already under Terumi-san’s and Morin-san’s care. Even if I wasn’t here, there wouldn’t be any problems.
To prove it, I gradually reduced the number of times I went to the store.

“That’s fine, but Erezento’s mountain range is steep, you know.”
“If I really find it dangerous, I will come back here. Not to mention, with Hugging Bear, Swaying Bear, and everything else, there won’t be any problems.”
“Big Sis Yuna…”

Fina also looked extremely worried.

“There will be no problems. When things calm down a little on the other side of the mountain, I will contact you.”

I took two palm-sized Bear Figurines from the Bear Box and gave one to Fina.

“This is?”
“It’s a Bear Phone that can call anywhere. It’s a magic tool that allows us to talk to each other, even if we are far apart .”

After I defeated more than 10,000 monsters near the capital, my level increased and I acquired two new skills.
The first skill let me use magic to create Bear Phones for communicating with others. It was a communication device that used magic instead of electricity.
The second skill transformed my summoned beasts into their cub forms.

I got a really strange skill that just permitted me to transform my summoned beast to different sized versions.
How could I use Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear's cub forms? Maybe I could to use them as watch dogs when I was at an inn? Or maybe as pillows?
However, if I wanted a pillow, their bigger versions would be better, right?
I tried the skill when I was in my house, but there was no way to make use of it.
Was it just a skill that allowed your tired heart to recover by looking at the cubs?
It was true that they were really cute though.

"If something happens or if you just want to talk to me, you just have to pour magic into it and it will connect to my Bear Phone, so you will be able to talk to me."

As I was giving the explanation, with a serious look,

"…Big Sis Yuna. It's just impossible to talk with people who are not in the same place. Even if you try to make me feel better by lying, I am not a young enough child to believe this."

She showed her dissatisfaction by puffing her cheeks.
Hmm…was it possible that she didn't trust me?
Also, ten years old was still a child, right?

"Yuna-chan, there might be those sort of tools in the capital, but well, maybe just one here and there…"

Was it such a rare item?
In the game though, there was a chat-like function.

"You will believe me once we use it. I will use the Bear Phone now."

I said that, but it was also my first time using it.
I didn't have anyone to test the Bear Phones with, and doing it by myself wasn't really possible.
I didn't know how the connection between the two bears worked.
Was there a phone ring melody?
We would find out by trying it, so I poured magic into the Bear Phone and prayed that it would connect to the one Fina had.
As I did that, the Bear Phone that Fina held started ringing.

“Kuun, Kuun, Kuun, Kuun, Kuun”

A bear’s crying voice?
That kind of calling voice?
Wasn’t it strange?
Couldn’t it be changed to a normal cellphone’s melody?

“B-Big Sis Yuna. What do I do about this!?”

Fina panicked while looking at the Bear Phone ringing in her hand.

“Try pouring magic into it. It uses magic power instead of a switch, after all.”

When Fina poured magic into it, the cries of the Bear Phone stopped.

“I will move away a bit, okay?”

I moved to about 10 meters away from Fina.

“Fina, can you hear me?”

I started talking, facing the Bear Phone.

『Big Sis Yuna?』

I could hear Fina’s voice coming from the Bear Phone’s mouth.

“Can you hear my voice?”

『Yes I can.』

“Then I will distance myself a little more.”

I moved away even more.

“Can you still hear me Fina?”

『I can hear you clearly.』

『Yuna-chan, is this really a magic tool that makes long distance communication possible?』

“I don’t know how far away we can communicate, but I think we can talk even if there is quite a distance between us.”

I thought so at least.
I had never used it before, so there was no way I could know how far away I could use it from.

“Then, I will cut the connection for now and this time Fina will be the one to call me.”

『Yes, I will try.』

When I cut the connection and waited for Fina’s call, the Bear Phone started ringing.

“Kuun, Kuun, Kuun, Kuun, Kuun”

As I thought, this crying voice was really unpleasant.
Of course, having a mechanical sound or a musical ring might be strange in this world, but if I could register voices, I would register Fina’s voice.
“Big Sis, pick up the phone. Big Sis, pick up the phone.”something like this.
I decided to try to see if it was possible to change it later.
As I poured magic into it, the crying voice stopped.

『Hmm, Big Sis Yuna, can you hear me?』

“Yes, I can.”

We confirmed that the transmission could be started from both sides.
The next problem was the distance, but we couldn’t really test that here.
Should I go to the capital and test it from there?

“Well, I will return to where you are now.”

I cut the conversation and went back to where Fina was.

“Big Sis Yuna, this Bear-san is incredible!”

She was carefully hugging the Bear Phone.

“With this, wherever we are, we will be able to talk with each other, right?”
“Yes.”
“Bear Phones are great. You can talk to people that are really far away.”
“Terumi-san too, if you have something to talk about, don’t hesitate to call me. If I think I will be able to come back, I will do so.”

I had the transfer gate so I could come back quickly.

“I understand, but is it okay to give us such an incredible magic tool?”
“Yes. They would be pointless if I had both of them.”

If I had them both, I would would be like a loner playing telephone…

“But if you have something like this, you can call your friends and family in your hometown.”

Terumi-san’s words pierced my heart.
Friends… Are they delicious?
Family… Where are they?

“Yuna-chan, what happened?”

Terumi-san asked me when I was in the orz pose..
Mustering my strength, I got up.
(ED: orz pose = hands and knees on the ground. o = head, r = arms, z = legs)

“Nothing. Don’t worry, and please use the magic tool. My home country is too far away, so I can’t use it.”
“Is that so? Sorry.”

Terumi-san might have sensed something about my past, but she didn’t say anything about it.

“So, Fina, take it and don’t worry, okay?”
“Okay. But, Big Sis Yuna, take care of yourself, okay?”

The next day, early in the morning, I hopped on Swaying Bear and rode towards the Erezento mountain range.
It had been a long time since I went on a trip by myself.
I advanced in the direction of the mountain range.
I could see the mountain range from here. Its summit was pure white. I wasn't sure if it was due to snow.
The Bear Clothes protected me from the cold, so it was probably okay.
Swaying Bear left the town and kept running on the path.
As I looked at the nearing mountain, my map was expanding.

"It's really big, huh."

I arrived at the entrance to the trailhead while atop Swaying Bear.
When I looked around, I saw a thin path.
I heard that it was narrow, but Swaying Bear could just barely fit it.
Then, let's go!
Swaying Bear started ascending the mountain.
At the foot of the mountain there were many trees and forests, but as we climbed higher, they started to thin, little by little.
Swaying Bear steadily ascended the mountain.
I noticed some monsters in the distance, but they didn't approach us.
After ascending some more, we reached the snow, and our steps started to sink a little.
Thanks to the Bear Clothes, I didn't feel the cold.
There was more and more snow, but Swaying Bear kept running through it.
While ascending the snowy mountain, I spotted a white wolf.
A Snow Wolf.
A wolf with a white pelt.
Would a white pelt be a good souvenir for Fina?
As I was thinking that, the Snow Wolf noticed me and ran away.
Swaying Bear was with me, so he didn't attack.
I kind of wanted his fur, but I wouldn't go to the extent of chasing him down.
There were three species of monsters on the mountain range.
Snow Wolves, Yetis, and Snow Darumas.
The Yetis were hairy Snowmen and comparatively gentle monsters. If you didn't attack them first, they wouldn't do anything.
The problematic ones were the Snow Darumas. They had an ice magic stone and their bodies were assembled from the snow.
Appearance wise, they looked like snowmen without arms and legs.
They attacked slowly, trying to tackle you or blowing snow from their mouths.

Physical attacks didn't work on them because of their characteristics.
If Swaying Bear or I attacked them like that, they would only collapse and rapidly regenerate their bodies by gathering the snow around them.
The way to kill them was to use fire attribute magic to melt the snow, so that they couldn't assemble their form anymore.
That was why I plunged a fireball into the first Snow Daruma I saw.
When the fireball touched it, the snow evaporated and the ice magic crystal dropped.
Those magic crystals could be used to make fridges or freezers.
The crystals had a lot of uses, so I decided to store them.

The mountain climbing was progressing nicely, until a snowstorm appeared.
Would it be better if I stopped a little and waited for the storm to calm down?
Swaying Bear and I were doing fine, but our vision was too restricted.
It wasn't really a trip that required me to go as fast as I could, so I looked for a good place to stop.

While climbing the mountain and looking for a place to rest, Swaying Bear reacted to something.
Thinking that it was a monster, I used detection magic.
The Detection magic sensed no monsters.
Instead, it reacted to two people.

Chapter 84
Bear-san Saves People

There were people in this snowstorm.
They were probably adventurers like me.
Did they come all the way here to kill some monsters?

Thinking that it would be a pain if they attacked out of surprise after seeing Swaying Bear, I decided to pass by them without making contact, but the signal from the detection magic didn't move.
Were they camping?
It was hard to believe that they would be moving during a snowstorm.
It was possible that there was a cave and they were just taking a break.

Then, wouldn't it be fine if I just continued on my way?
In the end, after thinking deeply about what to do, I decided to continue advancing towards them .

The storm was becoming stronger and stronger.
Using the detection magic, I finally arrived near the signal.

There was no cavern nor large boulders in sight, nowhere you could hide. In addition to that, nobody was standing around here. Still, the detection magic was reacting.
The only thing I could think was that they were buried under the snow.
Wasn't that really bad?

I concentrated my gaze on the mass of snow.
In front of me, Swaying Bear reacted. When I turned my gaze to where he was looking, I noticed a buried bag.
I rushed over and shove away the snow. I saw a man and a woman who had collapsed while hugging each other.

"Are you okay!?"

I blew away the snow with wind magic and shook them.
The two of them were unconscious, but they were still breathing.

I looked for a place that was protected from the snow, and found a little cavern a short distance away.
However, it was not big enough to guard against the snow.
I just had to make it bigger then.
I summoned Hugging Bear and asked the bears to transport the collapsed people.
I approached the little cave and carefully used magic, to avoid causing an avalanche.

When the cave became big enough, I brought out the portable Bear House that I used during my trip to the capital.
I brought the two unconscious people inside and put them on the sofas.

To warm them up, I brought out a blanket and covered them with it.
Just that wouldn't be enough, so I warmed the room.
The Bear House had been made so that it wouldn't be hot or cold. A moderate temperature was always guaranteed. However, to warm up the two freezing people, I used a fire magic stone.

After doing that, I just had to wait for them to wake up.
While waiting, I decided to have a meal.
I went to the kitchen and prepared a warm meal and drink. When I came back to the room, the woman's body began to move, and she opened her eyes.

"W, where…?"
"Are you awake?"

The woman looked around the room, before finally landing on me.

"…A bear? …You are?"
"I am the adventurer, Yuna. I found the two of you on the snowy mountain, do you remember that?"

The woman thought for a little, then suddenly remembered something and started shouting.

"Damon!"
"If you are referring to the man, he is sleeping there."

I pointed to the sofa next to her.
After seeing that the man was breathing, she started to calm down.

“What a relief. Are you the one who saved us?”
“It was just a coincidence. I found the two of you on collapsed in the snow.”
“Thank you very much. My name is Ranya,and that man is my husband, Damon.”

She lowered her head.
She seemed to be less than 25 years old.
I couldn’t be sure though, especially considering Eleanora-san.
I gave the warm milk to Ranya-san.

“So, why are you in this sort of place?”
“Well, we are on a trip from Mireera to Crimonia.”
“If I remember correctly, Mireera is the city that is just under the mountain range, right?”

It was the city by the sea.
The city I was going to.

“Yes, that’s right. We were going to buy some food at Crimonia, on the other side of the mountain range, but we lost all of our strength.”
“Food? Why would you go past the mountain range to fetch it?”
“It seems that the news didn’t reach Crimonia, huh?”

Ranya-san said, looking sad.

“…?”
“One month ago, a monster appeared in the sea.”
“A monster?”
“An adventurer said that it was a Kraken. It appeared near the harbour and started attacking the boats, and now no boats can leave or enter the harbour.”

In the game, the Kraken was the boss of the sea event.
It was a squid monster.
It was weak to fire and lightning, but the power of fire magic was cut in half on the sea, and even though lightning magic did a lot of damage, because of the sea zone, if you made a mistake in using it, it could become a really troublesome magic for you and your companions.
It was an event where warriors were useless and magicians played a really big role.
I participated in it too, but I remembered that it was really a troublesome enemy.

“Thanks to that, the city can’t catch fish anymore. Fishing is the foundation of our city, so not being able to catch fish has dealt great damage to us. Goods don’t reach us from the outside. The only places where we can catch fish during these troubling times are monopolised by a few people.”
“Monopolizing… Do people really accept it so readily?”
“The Commerce Guild is the center of everything in the city, so no one can oppose them. If you do oppose them, you won’t be able to buy any goods from other people.”
“Isn’t there an Adventurer’s Guild in the city? Couldn’t they assemble their forces and kill the Kraken or something like that?”

Ranya-san shook her head.

“There is an Adventurer’s Guild. However, there are no adventurers who can defeat the Kraken.”

In regards to the event, the Kraken was a boss class monster after all, huh.
In this world, how high did your rank need to be to kill it?
While I was thinking about that, Damon, who was sleeping on the sofa, woke up.

“Damon, are you okay?”

Ranya-san approached him, looking worried.

“Ranya? We are…”
“The adventurer Yuna-san saved us.”

Damon sat up looked at me.

“Bear?”

They all had the same reaction…

“Damon, that’s not polite!”
“Ah, sorry. Thank you for saving us. So, where are we?”
“In my house.”
“We have been saved, huh…”

I went back to the kitchen and warmed up some more milk to give to Damon.

“Thanks, that’s a lifesaver.”

He received it and drank it in one gulp.
The two of them started to calm down, so we continued to talk.

“But, why would you be in the mountain range? It may be a detour, but I heard that it is possible to travel on the coastland.”
“Some time after the Kraken appearance, robbers appeared on the coastland road.”
“Even if the Kraken is impossible, can’t the adventurers kill those robbers?”

The two of them shook their heads.

“The thing is, all the high ranking adventurers have been hired by the fleeing people and left the city.”
“The only adventurers remaining in town are low ranked ones…”

The Kraken couldn’t be killed. They couldn’t kill the thieves.
They should have done something before all the high rank adventurers left the city…

To summarise their story, because of the Kraken in the sea, they couldn’t fish and goods from other towns couldn’t come in. On the only path out of the city, bandits appeared and made it impossible to pass. Not to mention, the remaining adventurers couldn’t help at all.
Finally, fish in the shores and shallows were monopolized by a few people.

“And the mountain? The sea isn’t the only option, right?”

If there were wolves on the mountain, there should be other animals too, and there were also things to harvest on the mountain.

“Yes, we can find some things. But, they are not limitless, and if you don’t have a lot of money, you won’t be able to procure them.”
“Other harbours should know about the Kraken’s appearance. Can’t the kingdom or someone else help?”

It might not the ones from the capital, but for something like a Kraken, I thought it would not be strange for the kingdom’s soldiers to help.

“Our city does not belong to any kingdom. Because of that, there are no soldiers that would want to come to kill the Kraken.”
“Is that so?”
“I heard that the city was built by people who fled during wartime, long ago.”

The adventurers were no good and the kingdoms were no good; weren’t they checkmated?
Hmm… What to do?
Me? I wouldn’t fight.
As one would expect, a bear couldn’t fight in the sea.

“What are you going to do from now on?”
“If possible, we want to reach Crimonia.”
“And after that, will you be able to go back?”

They hadn’t reached their destination in the first place.
The possibility of them going back by the same path was really low.

“That’s…”
“But, if we don’t go, the children, father, and mother will be waiting for us with an empty stomach…”

There was no strength in their voices.
They might have remembered their journey until now.
They might be saying that they wanted to go, but the fact that they were buried in the snow and nearly died stayed in their minds.
I could let them leave like this, but if they died because of that, it would leave a bad aftertaste.
As for food, I had around 5000 wolves, and I had a lot of flour to make bread or pizza.
I had so much food that it would rot before I ate it. (It won’t rot, though.)
(TL note: in japanese, ‘More than someone can possibly use’ is written as ‘to the point it will rot’. It’s a pun.)

“Excuse me, one last thing, where are we?”
“In the middle of the snowy mountain, why?”
““Huh?!””

The two of them seemed surprised.

Oh right, saying that there was a house in the middle of a snowy mountain would surprise people.

“We are in a cavern near where I found the two of you.”
“Really?”
“If you think that I am lying, you just have to go out and check.”

The two of them left the Bear House.
Then came back really fast.

“Why would there be a house inside a cave?!”
“You can just think about it as something I made with magic.”
“Something like that is…”
“I came through the snowy mountain because I can do it, though.”

If I didn’t have the Bear Equipment, I wouldn’t come to this snowy mountain.
In the first place I wouldn’t be able to.
The Bear Clothes, the summoned Bears, the Bear House, the Bear Box.
The convenient Bear-san Equipement.

“By the way, what we were talking about before, I have some food I could lend to you.”
“Really!? If you are so kind to share some with us that would save us, but…”
“I have a request though.”
“Money? Of course we will pay. How much would you like to sell it for?”

Damon brought out a leather bag and placed the money on the table.
Silver and copper coins were rolling on the table.
It must be the money they had scraped up from their house.
For me, it wasn’t really a big sum.

“It probably isn’t enough, but this is everything we own. If you could sell the most you can for this sum, it would save us.”

Damon lowered his head.
Even though he didn’t have to lower his head so much to a little girl like me.
Well, if he asked arrogantly, I would have refused, though.

“I don’t need money.”

The wolves were just sitting in my Bear Box, after all.

“What do you want then?”
“You just have to guide me around the city.”
“Is just that okay?”
“For now, just that is plenty. I will not request something unreasonable.”

If the Kraken wasn’t there, I would have asked them to introduce me to the best fish dealer they knew.
For now, I would think about what to do when I arrived to the city.

“Thank you.”

He even gave his thanks to a child with this strange appearance, huh.
Surely that was proof that he has been really troubled.

“More than that, you should be really tired after all that happened today. I will prepare something to eat, so after eating, go get some sleep. If the snowstorm stops, we will depart first thing in the morning.”

I prepared a warm meal for the two of them.
They ate it with thin tears flowing out of their eyes.
They might have not eaten well when they were in the city.
In that situation, wanting to climb the mountain range was more reckless than not.
After they finished eating, I brought them to the bedrooms on the second floor.

I went to my own bedroom too, and to get rid of today’s fatigue, I decided to plunge into my futon.

Chapter 85
Bear-san Arrives At Mireera

When I blew away the snow that piled up in front of the cave, we were met with beautiful weather.
The weather was so beautiful, it was as if the snowstorm was just a dream.
It was to the point that it was almost too bright for an ex-hikikomori like me.

I asked the two of them to leave the cave before I put away the Bear House.
When I left the cave, the two were having problems walking on the fresh snow.

“Yuna-chan, what will you do about your house?”

Since we had grown closer during yesterday’s meal, they were now using 『chan』 instead of 『san』.
It was more comfortable for me this way.

“I made it with magic, so I can put it away with magic as well.”
“Yuna-chan, you are really a strong adventurer, aren’t you?”
“I am just a normal, rank D adventurer, you know.”

It was a really dubious phrase, if I had to say so myself.
If there were any other adventurers wearing a Bear suit, going through the snowy mountain alone, and even bringing out a house, I would really want to meet them.

“Then, as I explained yesterday, I will bring out my summoned beasts, so don’t be surprised, okay?”

During the meal yesterday, I told them that I could summon Bears and showed them their cub forms.
Today though, their sizes would be different from yesterday.

“So big…”
“Damon-san, Ranya-san, please ride Swaying Bear, who I introduced to you yesterday.”
“Is this really the same bear you showed us yesterday?”

Damon-san approached Swaying Bear timidly.

“Is it really okay?”
“If you don’t do anything bad or badmouth him, it will be okay.”
“Badmouth…the human language…?”
“He understands it. Swaying Bear, squat to let them on.”

Hearing that, Swaying Bear lowered his body.
Seeing that, Damon-san was at a loss for words.

“This is…Swaying Bear…I am counting on you!”

Damon-san said so and climbed onto Swaying Bear.
Swaying Bear turned his head to Damon-san and nodded.

“Amazing, he really understands human speech.”
“Ranya-san too, get on. We will depart soon.”

Ranya-san nodded and positioned herself behind her husband. When the two of them were on, Swaying Bear rose slowly.
Carrying two adults was probably the limit for Swaying Bear.

“You shouldn’t be able to fall, but hold on tight.”

I hopped on Hugging Bear and we embarked towards the city.
We started off slowly at first, at walking speed, but as they got used to it, we gradually raised the speed.
We were on the snowy mountain so we couldn’t move as fast as we could on the flatlands, but it was still faster than a human’s walking speed.

“The weather on the mountain can change quickly, so we will go a little faster, okay?”

We raised the speed some more and ascended the mountain range.
The Snow Darumas that appeared during this period were easily killed with fire magic.
I thought that the two of them would be okay with Swaying Bear there, but it would be troublesome if they got attacked.

“This is simply…”
“Amazing!”

It seemed that before meeting me, the two of them always hid or changed routes when encountering monsters.
Well, a Snow Daruma couldn’t be killed by normal attacks, so defeating it was impossible for normal people.
After moving for a while, we arrived at the other side of the mountain.

We could see the blue sea spreading out in the distance.
Oh, it’s the sea that I saw in my dreams.
If I descend this snowy mountain, the sea is waiting for me.
The Kraken was waiting there too, though.
If the Kraken hadn’t been there, it would have been the best…
Even though we could see the sea from here, it didn’t mean that it was close.
We could see it, but how far was it?
It should be around the same distance as going down from the top of Mount Fuji, I think?
Of course, a hikikomori like me had never gone to the top of Mount Fuji. Even if I tried, I didn’t think I would be able to reach the top with the strength of a hikikomori.

The bears descended the mountain.
The two who were on Swaying Bear were somewhat noisy since a while ago.
They were saying something like “Stop!” or “Too fast!” or “We will die!”.
Well, we were going down the mountain, so there was nothing we could do about it.
Was this how it felt to ride the roller coaster I saw on TV? I couldn’t really tell, because I never rode one.
Some hours passed and we arrived at the base of the mountain.

“Are the two of you alright?”
“Yes, somehow.”
“I…I’m fine.”

The two stopped screaming midway and did their best to hold on to Swaying Bear.

“Still, thinking about how much time it took us to climb this mountain, it makes me sad.”

After descending the mountain, around halfway to the city, we climbed down from the bears and started walking.
The reason was that I didn't want to cause an uproar.
At dusk, we finally arrived at the city.

"We really returned in just one day."

The two were muttering something like "What was the point of our hardships…"
As we arrived near the town, we felt a salty breeze blowing.
We could feel that we were coming closer to the sea. I say this, but even in Japan, I never went to the sea.
Still, I went there in the game.
It was a sea packed with monsters, though…

As we approached the city, we saw the city guards standing by the gates.

"Damon, you are back!"
"Yeah, this missy saved us from near death."

The city guard turned to look at me.

"Huh? A bear?"
"I am the adventurer Yuna."

I brought out my guild card.

"Rank D…"

He seemed surprised that a little girl like me was already a rank D adventurer.
I probably seemed to be rank E at best.

"Damon, finally. Did you manage to reach Crimonia?"

Damon-san shook his head.

"We ran out of strength midway."
"I see. Still, it's great that you two were saved. Bear missy, thank you."
"I found them on my way here, so don't worry about it."

“I see. I believe you have heard about the city’s current situation from Damon, but I welcome you nonetheless.”

He said, before letting us enter the city.

“What are you planning on doing now, Yuna-chan?”
“It’s already late today, so in order to be in shape tomorrow, I will just go to sleep. I would be saved if you introduce me to an inn.”
“An inn, huh. It is possible that you won’t be able to get a meal, you know.”
“It’s okay. I have my own food after all.”
“But, Yuna-chan, you don’t have to go to an inn, you can just come to our house.”
“Hmm… I will pass. You didn’t see your family in a long time, right? You don’t have to mind me.”
“But you gave us so much food.”

Yesterday, I gave them an item bag packed with 3 wolves, wheat flour and vegetables.
The two of them went to buy things from Crimonia without an item bag…
Surely they decided to go together because they didn’t have one.
Still, saying that they would climb the mountain while carrying food, I could only think of them as reckless.
That proved the extent to which they had their backs against a wall.

“If you want to thank me, you can just guide me through the city.”
“Thank you. If you have something you want to see, just tell us. We will show you around tomorrow.”

Even after walking around a little, I noticed no liveliness.
There was next to zero pedestrian traffic.
Even in the big plaza, there was almost nobody to be seen.
Well, it was good for me, because it reduced the number of gazes on me.

“Normally, there are a lot of stalls around here.”

Ranya-san said, looking sad.

“Because of the Kraken, we can’t fish anymore.”
“And the Commerce Guild is monopolizing the spots by the shore, right?”
“Yeah. Even in these circumstances, they are just thinking about making money.”

Well, my image of the Commerce Guild was something like that, though.
They would say something like “Are we making any profit?”, while rubbing their hands.

“Damon!”

A voice called to Damon from behind us.
When we looked back, a man around Damon-san’s age was approaching us.

“Juremo…”
“When did you return?”
“Just now.”
“I see. I was really shocked when I heard that you would climb the mountain to go to Crimonia.”
“We had nearly no food left after all.”
“I apologize for that.”

The man apologized when he heard Damon-san’s words.

“It’s not your fault, Juremo. Yuna, this is Juremo, who is working at the Commerce Guild.”
“The corrupted one?”
“He is on the good side.”
“The good side, that’s not a good way to put it, isn’t it?”
“Even so, you are better than your comrades.”
“Maybe, but you didn’t introduce this girl in strange clothing yet.”
“She is the adventurer Yuna. She is our saviour. She saved us on the snowy mountain when we collapsed.”
“You had such a difficult time. Thank you for saving Damon.”

He thanked me.

“So, did you procure food?”
“Yuna shared the food she had on her.”
“I see. An adventurer just arrived to kill the bandits, so you will be able go through the coastal road with him, somehow.”
“That’s impossible. In the end, he will flee.”
“He is a rank C adventurer, so he won’t do something like fleeing.”
“If he is a rank C, then….”

“The only problem would be if he accepted a request from someone who wants to leave the town.”

Were rank C adventurers strong?
Even if he couldn’t kill the Kraken, it would be nice if he defeated the bandits.
A bit later, we arrived at a crossroad and parted ways with Juremo.

“Yuna-chan, here is the inn.”

Unexpectedly, there was a big inn.

“It’s because there were a lot of people who came here from other cities by boat to buy fish. There are no people coming now, so I am sure that there will be open rooms.”
“Thanks. Then, I count on you tomorrow.”

I parted with the two of them and entered the inn.
After entering, I saw a tanned macho sitting at the counter.
As I stepped inside, I locked eyes with the macho.

“Muscle?”
“Bear?”

The two of us uttered the characteristic of the other.

“I want to stay here.”
“Oh, sorry. I didn’t think a client would come, so…How many people?”
“I am alone, though.”
“Bear missy, you can’t say such lies. You couldn’t have come all the way here alone. There is a Kraken in the sea and bandits on the coastal road. The fact that there is no way to come to this city alone safely, is something well known by the people living here.”
“Well, I came through the mountain range after all.”
“And that is even harder to believe. Coming through the impregnable mountain range…”
“I don’t care if you don’t believe me, I just want to stay here.”
“There are a lot of free rooms. But I can’t make food.”
“I don’t need it. Uncle, do you have something to eat for yourself?”

“Yeah, it’s an inn after all. I have some preserved food. But, I have to divide it amongst the people I know. It may be bad to say this, but I do not have enough food to share with a stranger. If you give me ingredients though, I can make it for you.”

I had the bread I asked Morin-san to bake and other things to eat, but it would be troublesome if he continued to look at me with a dull expression, so I decided to give him the ingredients.
I took out wolves, vegetables, and flour from the Bear Box.

“Then, make it with this, please.”
“This much!?”

The muscled uncle looked at the ingredients that appeared before him with surprise.

“Well, I don’t know how long I will be staying here, so if it isn’t enough, just say so.”
“Okay, understood. Then, I will do the preparations for the meal immediately. Honestly, I really wanted to make you a delicious fish meal, though.”
“I am Yuna.”
“Yeah, nice to meet you, Bear missy.”

Why didn’t he use my name even though I told it to him?
It seemed that the equation 『Me = Bear missy』 would spread to the world if it continued this way.
Well, compared to that, 『Me = Bear girl』 was already the equation in Crimonia.

Chapter 86
Bear-san Explores The City

After filling my belly with a delicious dinner, the uncle led me to my room.
Since there were a lot of vacant rooms, he let me take the biggest single room for the price of a normal room.
I plunged into the large bed, took out the Bear Phone, and called Fina in Crimonia to tell her that I had arrived in Mireera.
Fina was relieved to hear that I arrived safely.
I didn't want to make Fina worried, so I didn't tell her about the Kraken, or the state of the city.
I just told her that I wouldn't be returning to town for a while.

When I opened my eyes the next morning, I saw a big white Manjuu and a big black Manjuu on my bed.
Taking a better look, they were Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear that were sleeping on the bed curled in a ball shape.
I remembered that I summoned them yesterday as crime prevention.
A 15-year-old maiden was sleeping alone. This sort of precaution was necessary.
However, the bears were sleeping so soundly. Would they wake me up if something happened?
I trusted them though.
I petted the sleeping bears.
They did a little yawn before going back to their ball shape.
I returned them to gloves and got out of the bed.
I changed back to the Black Bear Suit from the White Bear Suit and descended to the first floor, where the dining room was.

"How early. Well, food is prepared."

Macho brought out breakfast.
The food was so delicious that you would never believe that it was a muscled macho who made it.
At least his wife looked normal, and their children inherited her looks, not his.
Their son, who was older than me, was helping the inn and was also a fisherman.
It seemed that the fish offered by the inn were caught by the son, but because he couldn't go out to the sea, he was just helping the inn now.

Their daughter was around the same age as me (she was taller than me though), and she helped her mother do the cleaning, the laundry, and food preparations.
Looking at the two of them, I really thought 'it was great that they are not like the Macho'.
They should thank their mother for her genes.
While I was taking my time to eat a delicious breakfast, Ranya-san came.

"Yuna-chan, good morning. Did you sleep well?"
"Good morning. Thank you for taking me to this good inn, I slept really well."

I finished eating my breakfast so I left the inn.

"So, where should we go first?"
"The sea first, I think. If there is a place that sells fish, I want to see that too."

There were no marketplaces now, though.

"The Commerce Guild is managing the fish sales, so if you want to buy some, you will have to go there. It will be at an incredibly absurd price though."

Well, they were in a difficult position where they could just fish in the shallows, so it was absolutely normal for them to be pricey.
I had money so I could buy them, but after hearing what Ranya-san said before, I instinctively didn't want to buy them from the Commerce Guild.

"And I want to go to the Adventurer's Guild too."

I didn't want to fight with the Kraken, but I wanted some information about the bandits.
If I could defeat the bandits, the coastal road would be accessible again. If that happened, the minimum necessary goods would be able to enter the city, and there would be no more people who would try to use the mountain range.

"By the way, where is Damon-san?"
"Damon went to distribute the food Yuna-chan gave us."
"Is it okay? Will it be enough for all of you?"
"It will be okay for a while. We are exchanging the few ingredients we have amongst us, after all."
"If you don't have enough, just tell me, okay?"

After walking for awhile, the beach came into our view.
The sea spread infinitely from my point of view.
The blue sea, the infinite sea, the blue sky. It was a sea so calm that it was hard to imagine that the Kraken was there.
As I shifted my gaze to the left, I could see a lot of fishermen's boats, anchored in the port.
I bet if the Kraken wasn't around, a lot of these boats would be out on the sea.

"Is Ranya-san's boat here too?"
"Yes, it is, but right now, since we don't have the approval of the Commerce Guild, we aren't able to move it."
"Around where does the Kraken come out?"

I pointed at the sea I was looking at.
I really couldn't imagine that, in this immense sea, this calm place, there was a Kraken.

"Where you say? It's not only one place. All the boats that go too far from the shore are attacked. Sometimes, even if you fish near the shore, you can be attacked, so I can't really accurately say where it will appear."

For now, I had no methods of killing the Kraken.
I didn't have any ways to fight on the sea.
I couldn't fly in the sky, and I couldn't dive into the sea.
In the game, during the sea event, there was an item that enabled us to breath underwater. That was why you wouldn't die even if you fell from the boat, and you could attack as well.
If only it would come onto land, then I could fry it and make a giant grilled squid.
Well, just asking for the impossible would get me nowhere.
Even my omnipotent Bear Equipment couldn't help me fight on the sea.
Let's just pray that a rank S adventurer or the army would do something about it.

"But with it being this calm, it's hard to think a Kraken is there."

We walked along the coast, looking around.
We saw children on the nearby sandy beach.
They might be picking up manila clams.
It made me want to eat miso soup made of manila clams.
I started to really yearn for Japanese food.

Someone, please kill this Kraken.
I would pay, so could a S rank adventurer come, please?
WHile thinking something like that, I continued walking.
Next to the sandy beach, I could see a cliff.

“After this cliff, the bandits appear, so be careful if you are going there.”

Ranya-san warned me.
Would they attack me if I was walking on my own?
If that was the case, it would be less troublesome, since I wouldn’t have to go and look for them.

After checking out the sea, she brought me to a secondhand shop and a weapon shop.
Finally, I asked her to show me where the Commerce Guild and the Adventurer’s Guild were and parted ways with her.
I decided to go to the Adventurer’s Guild alone.
I went there alone because I had learned from my past experiences.
The same thing happened every time when I first went to the Adventurer’s Guild. (All because of my clothes.)
I couldn’t bring Ranya-san to a place like this.

For such a reason, I came to the Adventurer’s Guild alone.
It was smaller than the Adventurer’s Guild in Crimonia.
Preparing for a brawl with the adventurers, I entered the guild.
As I entered, the gazes of all the adventurers…didn’t turn to me.

“Nobody is here…”
“Ara, that’s not polite. I am here.”

I turned to where the voice came from, and saw an exhibitionist there.
Emphasised breasts. Skin laid bare around the waist, and a mini skirt.
A girl was sitting on a chair, drinking alcohol.

“Ara, why would a cute bear like you come to this Adventurer’s Guild?”
“This is the Adventurer’s Guild, right?”

Had I gone to the wrong place and entered a place for adults?

“That’s right.”

It seemed that it was the right place.

“Then, why would an exhibitionist be in this guild?”
“Ara, that’s not nice. I am in my civilian clothes. It makes the men really happy.”

She said that while tightening her chest.
It was a technique that the flat chested me couldn’t do at all.
I will be able to do it in a few years though.

“You say that it pleases the men, but there are no adventurers here.”
“Of course. Bear-san, didn’t you hear about this city’s affairs?”
“I heard that the city is troubled by the appearance of the Kraken and bandits. I also heard that all the high rank adventurers fled the city, escorting some of the citizens, and the only adventurers that remain are low rank ones.”
“That’s right for the most part. Only, the remaining adventurers are at the Commerce Guild.”
“Adventurers at the Commerce Guild?”
“Even if they are low ranked, they can hunt low ranked monsters or animals. And the Commerce Guild pays a lot to procure food, so the adventurers all went there.”

I see, if they didn’t sell it in the Adventurer’s Guild but rather in the Commerce Guild, they would make more money.
In the end, the adventurers chose money over big breasts.
I wouldn’t say that out loud though.

“The Adventurer’s Guild doesn’t buy it at the same price?”
“Ara, are you tell me to do something like those bastards did?”

The woman glared at me.
For a second, I faltered under her gaze.

“Fufu, it was a joke. Don’t be so startled. So, Bear-san, why did you come to the Adventurer’s Guild?”
“I came here to get some information about the bandits who appeared on the coast and also the Kraken.”
“Ara, what will you do after hearing that? Will the missy defeat them?”
“It’s impossible for me to defeat the Kraken, but depending on the information about the bandits, I plan on getting rid of them, yeah.”

When I responded like that, the woman started laughing.

“Fufu, ahahahahaha… It has been awhile since I last laughed that hard. Bear missy doing a bandit extermination? There are some people that like little girls like you in the bandit group, you know. Do you know what would happen to you if they caught you? “
“I can do something as easy as bandit extermination, you know.”
“Ara, is that so. Then I won’t say more than this. If you are caught, don’t expect someone to come and save you.”

The woman said, looking annoyed.

“Bring out your guild card, then.”

The woman went behind the counter of the guild.

“You are?”
“Ah, now that I think about it, I didn’t introduce myself. I am the master of the Adventurer’s Guild in this city, Atora.”

Unexpectedly, the guild master was an exhibitionist.
Was there a shortage of capable people?
I gave my guild card to Atora-san.

“Are there no other employees?”
“With the city’s situation, the Adventurer’s Guild is not allowed to leisurely do as we please.”

Weren’t you just drinking alcohol before, looking totally free?

“The ones who know how to fight went to the mountain range to catch some food, and the ones who are somewhat strong went to nearby towns to negotiate for a dispatch of adventurers. The last ones went to dismantle the monsters and animals and distribute the food.”
“Distribute the food?”
“Yes, we have a food shortage after all. It affects a lot of the inhabitants of this city. We can’t just let them die. We are helping as much as we can.”

Contrary to her appearance, she was an excellent guild master who did all she could for the sake of the residents.
Still, that should have been the work of the mayor though.

“What is the mayor doing?”
“He isn’t doing anything. He fled after all, taking his entire wealth with him. The Commerce Guild controls the town now.”

Mayor-san, that’s no good.
Was it because his position wasn’t appointed by the country, so he wouldn’t be punished?
I didn’t understand how the politics of this world worked, so it was useless to think about it.
Atora-san placed the guild card she received from me on a crystal board and operated it.

“Rank D adventurer…”

Atora-san read out loud my guild rank.

“This is…”

Squinting her eyes, she read the words that appeared on the crystal board.

“Hero…”

The word leaked out from Atora-san’s mouth.

“Monsters… Subjugation of… Tigers… Black… Percentage of request completion 100%…”

She muttered with a voice so small that I couldn’t understand all of it. Fragments of what I could hear made me understand that she was looking at the list of monsters that I had subjugated.
Atora-san froze at the sight of my completed subjugations.

“What happened?”
“Ah, sorry about it. I was overwhelmed by the information I saw on your guild card.”
“The information on the guild card?”

“The hero of Erufanica, Tiger Wolf subjugation, Black Viper subjugation, completion rate of request is 100%, recommendation of the capital’s guild master. And finally, the seal of His Majesty, the King of Erufanica is stamped on the guild card.”
“What is this thing about the hero of Erufanica? The recommendation of the guild master? The stamp of the King? This is the first time I have heard of those things.”
“Those are the titles given to the person who has been recognised for their exploits by the King and the capital’s guild master. Missy, what did you do?”

It seemed that they didn’t write what I did.

“I just exterminated some monsters.”
“Just exterminated some monsters… Missy, do you even know how amazing this is?”

There was no way I could. It had only been few months since I came to this world. I didn’t know the common sense of this world at all.

“And the King’s stamp. What did you do for him to stamp it in?”
“What is this about the King’s stamp?”
“It’s the stamp the King reserves for adventurers or merchants he has the most trust in. They are given to the ones who had worked for the country and made really big achievements. Missy, you didn’t lie about your age, did you?”
“I am a young girl, 15 years old.”

I didn’t know that they wrote something like that on my guild card. I would really like them to stop doing such things on their own accord.
Would this make a huge racket every time I went to a new guild?

“Is it possible to erase this?”
“Wh, what are you saying!? There’s no way I would erase it, you know. It’s the King’s seal, you know!”
“It’s a real pain though.”
“It’s okay. Those titles can be seen only by the guild masters, so if you just use it normally no one will be able to see it. And if you encounter a problem in a guild, you just have to show your card to a guild master and they will suddenly treat you really well, I bet.”

Was it like the all important seal case used a long time ago?
(ED: seal case = inrō)

“But if the Guild Master starts talking about it to everyone, there is no meaning to it, is there?”
“The message of the capital’s guild master states that it has to stay confidential, so it’s okay. If they talked, they would face a big punishment.”

It seemed that they muzzled them well.
If it helped me when I was in trouble, I would readily accept it and use it in place of a seal case.

“Strong adventurers are always welcome! I will say this again, but welcome to the city.”

She presented her hand, so I took it into my Bear Hand.

“Then Hero-san, I want to hear it from you directly, can you kill the Kraken?”
“Impossible. I have no methods of killing it. If it is in the sea, I have no means of attacking it.”

I clearly stated that it was impossible.

“I see, as I thought, it’s impossible.”

She said, looking disappointed.
I would like you to not think that a 15 years old maiden could do a Kraken subjugation.

“I will do something about the bandits though.”
“Thank you. Even if it’s just that, it will help us greatly.”

Chapter 87
Bear-san Gets Rid Of The Stockpiled Wolves

Atora-san told me that there were more than 20 bandits.
She didn't know what they looked like because they concealed their faces.
They didn't attack if you had guards.
However, if you didn't have any, they would strike.
She didn't know how strong the bandits were, because no one had ever tried to fight them.
The bandits stalked the coastline road from the mountain.
She only knew that their base was somewhere on the mountain. Well, I just had to use Detection magic to find them.

"Are there any captives?"
"I think there are some women who have been caught. Only corpses of men had been found, after all."

This statement killed my peace of mind.
If they only took money, I would just beat them half dead, but they were killing men and kidnapping women.
That was enough of a reason for them to be on my anger list.

"But will you really go and try to defeat them alone? Well, after seeing your guild card, I think it should be okay."

She said, seemingly worried.
I was a small girl wearing a Bear Suit.
With that appearance, I looked like a frail girl.

"I have returned."

While I was talking with Atora-san, a male guild staff employee entered the guild.

"Welcome back. How was the harvest?"

Atora-san asked him.
The guild employee shook his head.

“Just one wolf.”
“That won’t be enough. And the others?”
“I think there won’t be a lot.”
“You are right.”

It seemed that they were talking about the employees who went hunting on the mountain.
As I was looking at this employee, our eyes met.

“Master, who is this girl wearing the cute suit?”
“This is the adventurer Yuna. It seems she arrived in the city yesterday.”
“An adventurer? I am Sei, employed by this Adventurer’s Guild. Nice to meet you.”

This employee, despite my odd outfit, introduced himself politely.

“You need some wolves?”
“Yes, as I said before, this city is really low on food after all.”
“If it’s just wolves, I can give them to you.”
“Really? That would save us, but don’t you need them for yourself?”

Food was scarce in this city and hard to obtain.
She was worried about that.

“No problem. I just want you to promise to not tell anyone that I was the one who gave them to you.”
“Okay, I promise not to tell anyone. Sei, you too. Don’t go and talk about it.”
“Understood.”

In exchange for their silence, I would give them wolves, getting rid of some of my stockpile at the same time.
Surprisingly, I couldn’t get rid of the five thousand wolves all at once.
I couldn’t sell them unskillfully. If I sold them in large quantities, it could crash the market prices in the city.
If I distributed them free of charge, I would cause trouble for the low rank adventurers who made a living thanks to the wolves they sold.
That was why they were just rotting in the Bear Box.

“Then I can bring out around a thousand wolves, but do you have a place to put them?”

I didn’t know the number of the people living in the city, but I thought bringing out a thousand would suffice.

“…Huh? What did you say just now?”

For some reason, the two of them had their mouths open like idiots.

“Do you have a place to put them?”
“Not that! Didn’t you say a thousand just now!?”
“I did.”

Was a thousand not enough for a city where the inhabitants were in dire need for food?

“A thousand isn’t enough? If so, I will bring out two thousand.”
“Not that! Why would you carry this many wolves with you!? More importantly, how would you store them all!?”
“I killed them, so I stored them? I have an item bag that can store a lot.”
“Ah, right, you are a hero…”
“Hero?”

Sei-san asked.

“Don’t mind it.”

Atora-san stopped the conversation with Sei-san, so that he wouldn’t pry deeper.

“Yuna, if you really have that many, just a hundred would be more than enough. If you gave us a thousand, we wouldn’t be able to dismantle them.”

She was right.
I didn’t know how many employees they had, but even dismantling a hundred would take a lot of time, I bet.

“Will this really be enough?”
“More than enough. If we run out, I will count on you then.”

I wouldn't be able to get rid of the wolves like this, though…

"Sei, take her to the warehouse please. After that, dismantle the wolves with all the employees who have returned and start handing them out to the inhabitants. Also, don't talk about her, okay?"
"Understood. Yuna-san, this way please."

Sei responded and showed me the way to the warehouse.
In the warehouse, I took out a hundred wolves.

"Thank you very much. With this, we are saved."
"If you need more, just find me and tell me."

'I really want to get rid of these wolves', I muttered in my heart.

【Commerce Guild Master's point of view】

"What's happening!?"

I shouted at my subordinates, who were in front of me in the room.

"Why do the bastards from the Adventurer's Guild have so many wolves!?"
"Isn't it because they killed them?"

One of the subordinates responded.

"Are you an idiot! There is no way to kill so many wolves in one day."
"Master, it could be the adventurers who came the other day."

This subordinate was talking about the adventurers who arrived three days ago.
A party of four.
An ideal party consisting of two swordsmen and two mages.
They were high rank adventurers. I invited them here, but they refused.

"The bastards who refused my invitation, huh. But that's impossible. They left the city to defeat the bandits."
"How did they get the wolves then?"

“Investigating that is your job, isn’t it? Go and find why would they have so much wolf meat!”

The subordinates almost flew out of the room.
So much hardship because of these useless subordinates.

“Shit, in just one more month I would have been able to make enough money to leave this remote city.”

I became the guild master of this city’s Commerce Guild five years ago.
Before that, I was an employee of another town’s Commerce Guild. When I heard that I could become a guild master, I accepted, but when I arrived, it was in this little, remote city.
Even so, I did my best for five years.
Up until now, I was saving money to go back to a big city.
However, all of it broke apart with the appearance of the Kraken.
The idiot mayor fled, and the residents too.
In this city, all the money belonged to me.
I couldn’t let the residents leave the town with all of their wealth.
That was why I decided to steal the money from those who fled.
I engaged rogue adventurers and ordered them to imitate bandits.
When I showed them money and said that they could do whatever they wanted to the women they captured, they happily accepted.
Those adventurers might have wanted to flee the city when the Kraken appeared. They wanted to earn some money before fleeing, I bet.
That was why they listened to my words.
With the adventurers turning into bandits, this city was now completely isolated.
A Kraken was in the sea, and all the paths connected to the outside were blocked by the bandits. The only thing remaining was the dangerous mountain range. The residents had no other choice but to stay in the city.

The residents who fled were attacked by the bandits and had their possessions taken.
The ones who didn’t flee were buying food at high prices.
I planned on leaving the city after I squeezed every last bit of money from all the residents of this city. Then at this point, the Adventurer’s Guild started handing out free wolf meat to them.
Thanks to that, there were some foolish customers who started asking us to lower the prices or even give out free food.

Just a while ago, the adventurers were barely able to procure some animals, so how were they able to get their hands on that many wolves so suddenly?
If I didn't move fast, my earnings would disappear.

The information I was waiting for arrived on the night of the same day.

"I think the bear is suspicious."

The subordinate who reported this looked like a fool in my eyes.
He actually was a fool, so it couldn't be helped.

"You… Are you making fun of me?"
"No, not at all. There is a girl wearing a Bear Suit."
"Wearing a Bear Suit?"

There was someone who wore something strange like that?

"Yes, after a thorough investigation, it seems that she arrived in the city yesterday."
"She arrived without being attacked by the bandits?"

Was there someone else who came with this bear girl?

"The story I heard said that she crossed the mountain alone."
"Are you an idiot? Are you saying that she crossed THIS mountain!?"
"I heard this from the gatekeeper, so I think there is no doubt. He said that she saved two residents who tried to cross the mountain. The next day, a number of people saw this bear on the beach. There were some who saw her entering the Adventurer's Guild."
"And just afterwards, a huge quantity of wolves appeared."
"Yes, that's right."

Who the hell was this bear…
If she was able to transport so many wolves, that meant she had a huge item bag.
If we disregarded her clothes, the fact that she was able to cross the mountain range and had an item bag that could contain that many wolves meant that she was a high rank adventurer.

"How old is this Bear girl?"
"She is short, around 12 or 13 years old, it seems."

I thought that she would be at the end of her 20s or the beginning of her 30s, but she was just a brat.

“Are you making fun of me? Are you saying that a brat like her could cross the mountain and bring that many wolves?”

A little girl who was just 12 years old? Don’t joke with me.
How could a brat like her possibly be able to cross the mountain range? Make your report after thinking a little about the contents you are babbling about. That was why I hated idiots like that.
However, as time passed, I received more information about the bear.

“According to a report from the ones who were watching the Adventurer’s Guild, a lot of wolf meat still remains. He even said that because of this, no one would go hunting tomorrow and would rather remain at the guild to dismantle the wolves.”

If they kept on bringing out more, my profits would really disappear.
No one would come to buy food from the Commerce Guild.
The only suspicious person was a girl wearing a Bear Suit.

“Did you find out where the Bear girl is?”
“Yes, she is staying at the inn.”
“This Macho’s inn?”
“Yes.”
“Then, we attack tonight. Gather four or five adventurers.”

I decided that we would attack the Bear girl’s sleeping place tonight.
If she had the wolves, I just had to steal them from her.
Even if she didn’t have any, it didn’t matter.
I just had to hand her over to the bandits to get rid of her. With how numerous they were, I was sure there were some that would like a brat like her.
In any case, if I didn’t take action, I would have no future.

Sadly, from the adventurers who were sent to the inn, none returned.

Chapter 88
Bear-san Gets Attacked At The Inn

After I finished handing over the wolves, I returned to the inn.
Today's meal was Macho's cuisine again, so my belly was bulging once more.
I was going to subjugate the bandits tomorrow, so I decided to sleep early.
I summoned the two bears in cub form for crime prevention.

"Swaying Bear, Hugging Bear, I am counting on you two."

The two came up next to me and curled up into balls.
I started sleeping between the two.

Petchi Petchi, *Petchi Petchi*.

Something soft was tapping my cheek.

Petchi Petchi, *Petchi Petchi*.

I brushed it off and felt soft fur.
A blanket?
I hugged it.
It was warm.
As I embraced it, something covered my face.
I couldn't brush it away.
It became more and more difficult to breathe, so I woke up.

"What is it!?"

When I woke up, the two bears were sticking to my face.

"What? You two, do you have a bad sleeping habit?"

When I said that, the two bears started whining, making"Kuu—n"sounds.

"Is it possible that someone came?"

The bears started making the same “Kuu～n” noise a second time.
When I used detection magic, I saw people moving around in the inn.
There were four of them.
They were not the four from Macho’s family, since those four hadn’t left their rooms.
As far as I knew, there were no other customers resting in the inn.
Thanks to the detection magic, I saw them slowly moving up the stairs.
Was it possible that they were the rank C party I had heard about, and they were just coming back this late?
That was what I thought, but the magic reaction pinpointed them stopping in front of my room.
I had no memories of being assaulted in my life before, though.
Wouldn’t it be better to assault someone like the guild master, who had beautiful shapes at all the right places?
For now, to deal with the situation, I stood in the center of the room and looked at the door.
I locked my room before going to sleep, but what would they do now?

Click

The door was unlocked really easily.
Was there a spare key?
Or was it magic?
The door slowly opened.
They were infiltrating a 15 year old maiden’s room, so I didn’t have to hold back right?
The moment the door opened completely, I dashed to the door in one step and launched a Bear Punch into the face of the one who opened the door.
The one who had been punched hit the wall in the corridor and lost consciousness.
Keeping the pace, I entered the dim passageway, where the other three were standing.
In order to see their faces, I used light magic.
They all had masks on.
They were all robbers, without a doubt.

“Do you need something, at this hour in the night?”
“This chick, she really has a Bear suit!”

One of the men started laughing.
One of them was already knocked out, but they didn’t seem to mind it.

“Won’t you answer my question?”
“I will answer you. There is someone who wants the wolves in your possession, you see.”

They weren’t aiming for me, but the wolves, huh.
Hmm, even when the guild employees were asked not to speak about it, the information still leaked out, huh.
Still, to think that my existence was less important than the wolves.
Was my woman power really that low?
Was it because of my breasts?
Anyway,

“I don’t have any.”

I lied.

“It doesn’t matter if you have them or not. Our mission is to take you away after all. If you obediently follow us, I promise that we won’t do anything violent.”

I thought for a second that I should go with them and discover who their boss was, but…I wanted to sleep…
People were beings that really hated it when someone came and messed with their sleep, their meals, and their gaming time. That was why I decided to dispose of them quickly and go back to sleep.

“I want to sleep, so I will defeat you guys, okay?”
“It seems that you won’t understand if we don’t hurt you a little…”

The man took out a knife and attacked me.
Bear Punch, Kuma Punch, Bear Punch.
The secret art, Bear Punch, was bursting forth. (They were just normal Bear Hand punches though.)
The men collapsed to the floor a bit loudly.
Did I make too much noise? There was a possibility that the Macho’s family would wake up.
I started asking the men some questions before that happened.

“Who asked you to attack me? Where did you want to take me?”
“You think we will talk?”

The only possibility I could think of was the Commerce Guild.
I had no proof, so I wanted to hear it directly from the men.
Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear came out of the room. I wonder if they understood my feelings?

“Bears?”

The man looked at Swaying Bear.
I looked at the hallway.
I estimated that I could barely make it.
I changed Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear back to their normal sizes.

“It seems that they don’t want to talk, so go and eat them.”

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear slowly approached the collapsed men.

“Wait!”
“I won’t.”

Swaying Bear stopped above the man, pinned him down, and proceeded to lick his entire face with one stroke of the tongue.

“I’ll talk! I’ll talk, so please, don’t let him eat me!!”
“There are four of you, so if there is just one less, there is no problem.”

Hugging Bear also pinned down two other men, so that they wouldn’t run away.
The only lucky one was probably the first one I made fly away.

“I beg you!”
“If you answer my question, I will stop them.”

The man started talking while trying to hold back Swaying Bear.

“The one who asked us to do it is the guild master of the Commerce Guild. This morning, you gave a lot of wolves to the Adventurer’s Guild, didn’t you?”

I knew it, it was the Commerce Guild.

“How did you know it was me?”
“The only strangers who came to this city recently are you and an adventurer party that came some days ago. That adventurer party went to kill the bandits and are not in the city.”

Certainly, that made me look suspicious.

“Also, a lot of people saw you as you were walking around the city. And of course, they saw you enter the Adventurer’s Guild. Just afterwards, a large quantity of wolf meat was distributed by the guild, so we could only assume that it was related to you. The only thing left to do was capturing you and bringing you to the Commerce Guild. Even if you didn’t have any wolves, the orders we received were to take away the item bag that could contain so many wolves.”

Their aim was the wolves and the item bag, huh.

“This is enough, right? I talked. Let me go, please!”
“What are you talking about? You asked for『Don’t eat me, please!』, didn’t you? There’s no way I will just let you go after you attacked me, right? It would be a pain if I had to call a guard right now, so we will do the following until morning. Swaying Bear, Hugging Bear, if they try to flee, you can eat them, okay?”

After giving them orders, I tried to go back inside the room.
Macho’s family didn’t seem to wake up, so if I woke up early, there wouldn’t be a problem.

“Wait! Will we have to stay like this until morning?”
“Also, you can also eat them if they try to disturb my sleep.”

The two bears who were pinning down two adventurers each, responded with low『Kuu—n』cries.

“If you don’t make any noises, you won’t become pet food, and I will have you delivered to the guards alive.”

I told the men.
After hearing my words, they shut their mouths and became silent.
I returned to the room, and entered dream world.

The next morning.

“Uwaaaaaaaah! Why are there bears here!?”

The corridor was really noisy.

“Missy, are you okay? Bear missy!”

I heard a scream calling for me.
I slowly remembered what happened yesterday.
Ah, that’s right, the bears were in the corridor.
While rubbing my sleepy eyes, I left the room.

“Missy, you are okay! Why are there bears in my inn?”

Macho was clenching his fists and in a defensive position.
Was it possible that he wanted to attack my bears?
In my opinion, he was being really reckless.

“Those bears are my summoned beasts, so it’s okay.”
“Summoned beasts? Missy, you can do something like that? And who are these men buried under them?”

The men were sleeping, their faces drenched with bear saliva.

“They attacked me in the middle of the night.”
“Attacked?”
“Their aim was my food, and they said that they were following the orders of the Guild Master of the Commerce Guild.”
“The master of Commerce Guild?”
“So, I want to hand them over to some soldiers.”
“You shouldn’t do that.”
“Why?”
“Because, ever since the Mayor fled, the guards of the city are controlled by the Commerce Guild. If you want to hand them over, hand them over to the Adventurer’s Guild.”

I sent the Macho’s son to go to the Adventurer’s Guild to fetch an employee.
During that time, the Macho tied up the buried men with some rope.

Some time after, the son returned with an employee of the Adventurer's Guild.

"Why is Atora-san here?"

She was wearing a light jacket, contrary to the exposing clothes she had worn yesterday.
As expected, she wouldn't go out in those revealing clothes.
More than that, she would be really cold.

"It's because I heard that you were attacked of course. So, who are those bastards, the idiots who attacked Yuna?"

I pointed to the men who were tied with ropes.

"Them?"

She approached the men.

"You bastard, your name was Droy, wasn't it?"

She called out the name of one of the men.

"Master…"
"You fell as low as you possibly could, huh."
"I…"
"I will hear what you have to say at the Adventurer's Guild."

Atora-san asked the employee she brought with her to take them away.

"So, Yuna, are you hurt?"
"No problem. I have my own guards, after all."
"Guards?"
"I will introduce them to you another time."
"So, why were you attacked?"
"It seems that they were aiming for the wolves I have in my possession. They said it was the master of the Commerce Guild who asked them to do it, though."
"It appears that the fact that we distributed the wolf meat didn't sit well with him. Still, I really didn't think he would attack you so quickly."
"So, will you go and arrest this guild master of the Commerce Guild?"

“I could do it if he confessed, but with what we know, that will be impossible.”
“Really?”
“If he said that they were falsely accusing him, that would be it.”
“In every world, you need proof, huh.”
“Anyway, we will do some in-depth questioning of the adventurers that you captured. What will you do, Yuna?”
“I‘ll go and subjugate the bandits.”
“Take care when going, okay? Don’t try to do the impossible.”

She said, worrying about me.

“Also, the White Bear suits you as well.”

She said.
Thanks to the Macho’s scream, I forgot that I had just woken up and went out like this.
Why was it that I had this really embarrassing feeling when people saw me in my White Bear Suit?
Was it because I had this feeling that I was using the White Bear as pajamas?
The only difference between the White Bear and the Black Bear was their colours, though…

“I will return to the guild then. You really must not try to do the impossible, okay?”

Atora-san left the inn.
I then asked Macho-san to make me my day’s energy source, breakfast.

Chapter 89
Bear-san Goes To Subjugate The Bandits

I decided to leave all of the things regarding the Commerce Guild to Atora-san and began preparations for the bandit subjugation.
I said preparations, but it was just eating a meal.

“Missy, are you really going to exterminate those bandits?”

The muscled uncle said to me, looking worried.
He must have overheard my conversation with the Guild Master from earlier.

“That’s right. But before going, I will eat your delicious cuisine first, Deiga-san.”
“I am happy to hear that, but for someone like missy to do such a subjugation, it will be dangerous.”
“No problem. I am an adventurer, and you already saw my summoned beasts, didn’t you? I have those guys, so I will be done with this in no time.”
“I see. Then, when you come back, I will make you the best meal I can with the ingredients I can procure.”
“Then I have to hurry and defeat them rapidly, so I can eat it.”

When I left the city, I summoned Swaying Bear.
Now, let’s go subjugate some bandits!
I went to the place where the bandits were said to appear.
I followed the coastal road at a horse’s running speed.
The salty breeze felt really great.
If it was just a little warmer, I could go for a swim.
I was sure that Fina had never seen the sea, so it would be great if we all came here in the summer. Still, I hadn’t swam since my primary school lessons.
More importantly, did any of my acquaintances know how to swim?
Of all the people I knew in Crimonia, I didn’t think there were any.
Well, just playing on the sandy beach could be fun too. I decided to leave the future to the future, and concentrated on the bandit extermination.

I didn’t know when the bandits would appear, so I activated detection magic.
The map was not filled in around here, so I would be following a black road from here on.

Further down the road on the black map, I saw four signals.
The bandits?
An ambush?
Would they attack an opponent riding a bear, though?
Well, if they were bandits, I just had to capture them and ask them about the location of their base, and if they were not bandits, I would just ignore them.

As I followed the road while not really caring about who they were, a few human silhouettes came into my view.
I saw the forms of four people who seemed to be adventurers.
One man and three women, so looking at it from a man's point of view, it was something to be envious of.
Was this party one of those that society called a harem party?
When they saw me, the adventurers drew their swords and raised their staves, preparing for a fight.
Was it possible that they would attack?
As I approached slowly, the man blocked the path.

"Could you get out of the way, please?"

I could pass them on the side, but I decided to ask them to move first.
The adventurers stared at us.

"Why is there a bear here?"
"It's my bear."
"Isn't it dangerous?"
"As long as you don't attack him suddenly, it is ok."
"If you don't have any intentions of attacking us first, we won't attack you either."

The man lowered his sword.
After seeing him do so, the other party members, lowered their weapons as well.

"Let me warn you first, there are bandits who come out a little further down the road, so it's dangerous to go there."
"I know. I am on my way to subjugate them after all."
"Are you serious?"

From behind the man, a long haired woman who was holding a staff asked me, looking surprised.

She seemed to be a mage, looking at her clothes and weapon.

“They are not opponents who can be killed by a girl like you, you know.”
“Even though I look like this, I am an adventurer, and I have this child, so there is no problem.”

I patted Swaying Bear’s head.

“Still, you should abandon this subjugation. We searched for them for several days, but we didn’t manage to find them. It’s possible that they are already gone.”
“That would be fine by me as well. However, if they are still here, this child will find them, so I will try and search for them myself.”

I couldn’t really tell them that I had detection magic, so I didn’t talk about it.

“So, could you let me go through, please?”
“Can this bear really find the bandits?”

The female magician asked me.

“If you are right, and they are not here anymore, it won’t be possible, but if they are still around, he will be able to find them.”

After hearing those words, the woman started thinking about something.

“Could you let us tag along with you?”
“You guys?”
“Yes, if we went back without finding any clues, it won’t leave a good image of us, since we said that we would exterminate those bandits.”
“Tomeia?”

After hearing her say that so suddenly, the man called the woman’s name.

“But, am I not right? We couldn’t find the bandits by ourselves. However, if we are with this bear, it might be possible to find them. Isn’t it our time to help?”
“We don’t know if it can really find them, right? Don’t you remember how much time we spent searching for them?”
“This won’t take much time, right? It’s just to make us sure they are really gone.”
“Still…”

“What will the two of you do?”

Tomeia turned around and asked the remaining two members.

“Let’s see. We still have some food left, so I don’t really mind going along with this.”

The swordswoman answered.

“If sister Tomeia wants to go, I am okay with going as well.”
“The other two gave their approval, so what will you do, Blitz?”
“I concede. I will follow you. A man not going even if four girls are going, that’s something I can’t allow myself to do.”

He said, giving up.

“So, will you allow us to accompany you?”
“You would be a burden, so I refuse.”
“You say some harsh things. Despite how we look, we are rank C adventurers, so we won’t be a hindrance.”
“All of you are?”
“The man and I are rank C, but the two at the back are rank D. By the way, is it okay to ask for your rank?”
“It’s rank D, though.”
“Rank D, you say?”
“That means I am a higher rank than you, so I don’t think I will be a drag.”

It turned out to be a pain in the ass.
I really didn’t want other people to see me battle.
While thinking about what I should do, an idea came to my mind.

“If you deal with the aftermath, I am okay with it.”
“Deal with the aftermath?”
“I believe there should be some women who were captured, so it would be of great help if it’s not me, but adults like you who will help them.”

If there were women captured, they probably went through hell.
I had no ways to help those women, and no idea how to deal with the situation.

“Understood. We will take the responsibility for taking care of the women.”

After they gave their approval, we started to introduce ourselves.
The man was named Blitz, and he was supposedly the leader of the party, though it seemed that the one who was giving out directions was the female magician, Tomeia.
Then there was the other magician, Ran. She was younger than Tomea, and seemed to be in her early twenties.
The swordswoman, Gumoris, was around the same height as the swordsman. She had darkish skin and a somewhat large sword.

"Also, can I ask something?"
"Yes?"
"What are those clothes you're wearing, Yuna-chan?"

I knew they would ask.

"I have the Divine Protection of the Bear."
"Divine Protection of the Bear?"
"When I wear these clothes, I become stronger."

That was the new excuse I had thought of.
It wasn't like I was lying.
In fact, I really received this divine protection, even though I sometimes thought of it as a curse.

"Does such divine protection really exist?"
"The fact that this child listens to me is proof, isn't it?"

I pointed at Swaying Bear, who I was riding on.
They were making strange faces, so I couldn't really tell if they believed what I said.
This was my first time seeing something like the Divine Protection of the Bear as well, you know.
Manga, anime, novels, games, movies. I indulged myself in a lot of fantasy things, but I had never seen something like this before.

"Did you come to this city alone, Yuna-chan? Don't you have any other party members?"
"It's just me."
"It's great that you weren't attacked by the bandits then."
"That's because I climbed the mountain range from Crimonia."

“That mountain range?”

They looked at the mountain range that we could see from here.
We could see that there was a lot of white snow around the summit.
It gave off the same impression as Mount Fuji. I didn’t know high it was, but it was wide enough to stretch all the way towards us, since it was part of a mountain range.
(ED: Original for the last part was “because there were a lot of mountains stuck together”.)

“By the way, this one really is a calm child. What is his name?”

She asked, looking towards Swaying Bear.

“Swaying Bear.”
“Can I touch him?”
“Sure.”

After I gave her permission, she started petting Swaying Bear while walking.

“Can I do it too?”

The other magician, Ran, wanted to pet him as well, so I gave her permission too.

“So soft. What kind of fur is this? It feels like I am touching a high quality one!”
“Is it really okay?”

Blitz watched the two girls, worried.

“As long as you don’t harm me or this bear, there is no problem.”

The two female magicians were enjoying the sensation of the fur.

When we had advanced halfway towards the mountain, my detection magic found two people.
There were no other signals.
Were they guards?
It would be great if my detection magic had a wider range.
Still, it was really useful, so I shouldn’t be that greedy.

What should I do then?
It would be really troublesome if they ran away because we attacked sloppily, so I wanted to knock them out before they could do so.
It was also possible that they weren't bandits.
Should I use magic and kill them, or catch them and then ask questions, or just take into account that they might not be bandits?

"Something happened?"

As I was having trouble with what to do, Tomeia called out to me.

"I found some people that seem to be lookouts, so I was thinking about what to do. Kill them, capture them, or take into account the fact that they might be civilians."
"Where?"
"Don't face that way, okay? They are on the right side, about halfway to the mountain."

They all looked in that direction without moving their faces.

"I don't see them."
"Are they really there?"
"We will decide what to do after approaching a little more."

We moved forward, pretending we didn't notice them.
They weren't moving, huh.
Did they notice us from the start?
We slowly reduced the distance between us.
If we entered the forest, maybe they wouldn't see us?

"When we pass this tree, I will go and capture the hiding bandits, so could you all continue to walk past like normal?"
"Wait…"
"When you move forward for about hundred meters, you will arrive at the place I pointed out before."
"Are you using us as decoys?"
"Not decoys. We all have our own roles. You guys don't know the exact position of the thieves. I know it. Isn't it enough? What would you do if I left it in your hands and you let them run away?"
"Can you capture them, Yuna-chan?"

“I have Swaying Bear, and if a human being who could outrun us exists, then I want to see that person.”
“Understood. A hundred meters is enough, right?”
“Fifty should be enough, but just in case.”

We approached the tree I had pointed out.
Just when we arrived under the tree, Swaying Bear, with me riding on him, started climbing between the trees.
Swaying Bear was ascending the mountain about as fast as he could run on a flat road.
Before the adventurers even reached the fifty meter mark, I had already arrived at where the detected people were.

“Who are you!?”

The people there started shouting.
I had no obligation to respond.
They tried to draw their swords, but they were too slow.
Swaying Bear slammed into their bodies, and both of them fell to the ground.

“The two of you are with the bandits, right?”
“What are you talking about?”

The man seemed to be playing dumb.

“Are you lying to me? Well, I just need one of you to hear what you have to say. Swaying Bear, you can eat the one who seems the most delicious.”

Swaying Bear opened his big mouth.

“Stop him! Stop him, please!”
“He could also eat the two of you bit by bit, would you prefer that?”

Swaying Bear, knowing that I was threatening them, played along.
He opened his big mouth and let his drool spill out.

“Should we start by eating your arms then? Your heads have to be the last part, after all.”
“I beg you. Please stop him!”

“ I will ask one last time then. You two are with the bandits who are attacking the residents of the city, aren’t you?”
“…Yes, we are.”

The man nodded, looking as if he had abandoned hope.

“Could you tell me where your base is then? Just pointing out the direction to go to is also okay.”
“If we talk, will you let us go?”
“You’re joking. If you talk, you just won’t be eaten by my bear. I will properly hand you over to the Adventurer’s Guild.”

The two of them thought for awhile, not saying anything.

“Okay, I will talk.”

Just after they told me where the base was, I saw Blitz and the others ascending the mountain.
They seemed to be having a hard time walking.
Especially the two sword users, who were carrying their heavy swords and equipment. They had it rough.

“Are you guys okay?”
“Yeah, no problem. So, what happened?”
“I was right, they were with the bandits. I also made them tell me where their base is, so I plan to go there now.”
“I see.”
“I feel bad about this, but can I ask for someone to stay here and keep an eye on the two of them?”

If they didn’t want to do it, I would just make a hole and imprison the bandits inside.

“I will stay.”

Gumoris said.

“Gumoris, are you sure?”
“I can’t move fast on the mountain, so I would just be a burden.”

Gumoris took a rope from her item bag and tied up the bandits.

“I will take them down the mountain. If you guys don’t come back in one day, I will take them to the city.”
“Okay, you should do so.”

Gumoris obediently abided by Tomeia’s instructions.
Who was the leader again?
When you saw this happening, you couldn’t really tell who it was.
I started moving towards the the base using the information I received from the bandits, and the other three walked behind me.

“I was kind of shocked to see that there really were lookouts.”
“I only found them thanks to this child, though.”
“I want one as well…”

Ran jealously looked at Swaying Bear.
I wouldn’t give him away though.
After walking for awhile, the detection magic sensed dozens of signals surprisingly close by.

“You are moving forward without any hesitation, but is that really okay?”
“If the bandits lied to you, it’s possible that we are going in the wrong direction, after all.”
“Don’t worry. This child already found them.”
“Really?”
“We are almost there, so do you need to take a break before moving forward?”

I was riding on Swaying Bear, so I didn’t need it.

“No need.”
“I’m okay as well.”
“I will do my best too.”

With their agreement, we decided to continue moving forward.
Swaying Bear flattened the plant life, and the three of them followed the path he created.
I looked at the automated map.
It seemed that the road we were walking on was not the official one.

We could approach the base without being seen.

“We are almost there, so don’t make any noise.”

I warned them just in case, since we were almost at the place with the dozens of signals.
The three of them nodded.
I saw a cavern that was surrounded by trees. Outside the cavern, I saw about 15 men who were drinking while being attended to by women, even though it was midday.
I was sure these women were the ones they captured.
There were some people inside the cavern as well.

“So the base was here, huh.”
“Shit, the captured girls are here as well!”
“What do we do?”
“I can handle them all.”

It was becoming troublesome, so I said that.

“What are you saying!?”
“I think it would be better to go back for now and ask for reinforcements.”
“That’s impossible.”

Were these numbers impossible for rank C adventures too?

“I’m going then, so wait here, okay?”
“Wait!”

I didn’t plan on quarrelling with them, so I charged ahead, riding on Swaying Bear.

“What is this?!”
“Bear!?”
“Kuma!?”

The men started shouting.
I jumped off Swaying Bear.
The moment I landed, I made a ten meter wide pitfall under the bandits who were far enough from the women.
If they were out of luck, they might die, but that was the last thing on my mind.

I would like them to thank me for the fact that they had a chance of not dying from it.

“Swaying Bear! If there is anyone who tries to flee, I am counting on you!”

I fired air bullets at the bandits near the women, and made them fly far away from them.
When they were far enough, I made them fall inside pitfalls as well.

“Yuna-chan! Behind you!”

As I was turning my head to look back, a fireball nearly hit me.
I protected myself with the White Bear Hand and the fireball disappeared.
I saw three magicians with staves in their hands.
I fired air bullets into their faces. Thanks to the hit correction, all of them hit their targets.
The magicians fell, unable to protect themselves.
Using pitfalls and air bullets, I defeated all of the bandits.

As I looked around, I noticed I was the only one still standing.
Not even a minute had passed since the fight broke out.

“Yuna-chan, are you hurt anywhere!?”

Tomeia rushed over to where I was.

“Not really.”
“You sure? I saw you getting hit by a magic attack though?”
“It’s nothing at only such a low level. More importantly, I am counting on you regarding the women.”

The women, not understanding what just happened, lost their strength on the spot.
When the party went to help them, more men came out of the cave.
The man standing in the middle had a completely different atmosphere compared to the others.

“What is this mess!?”

Seeing the surroundings, the man howled.

“Did you guys do this?”

The man did not look at me, but at Blitz and the others.

“You are Blitz, aren’t you?”

The man noticed Blitz and said his name.
Did they know each other?

“You, Borg…”
“So, you came all the way here for some bandit subjugation?”
“Why are you here, you bastard?”
“That’s obvious. It’s a job, just a job.”
“A job, you say?”
“Yeah, Attack all the people who travel down the road, rob the money, and take the women. A really simple job.”

I asked Tomeia, who was near me, a question.

“Who is he?”
“He’s an adventurer we met at the town we were previously at. He is strong, but he is also violent, selfish, and thinks all of the women in his party belong to him. That’s why no one wanted to party with him, and he disappeared from the town after that. I didn’t expect to see him here, and that he would become a bandit.”
“Oi, oi, I am no bandit. I am just doing my job as an adventurer. It’s an official job I received from the Commerce Guild’s Master.”
“Commerce Guild?”

I had a strange feeling that something really incredible had just been said, but…

“Is it really okay for you to say that to us?”

Blitz stood in front of the man.

“That doesn’t really matter, does it? You bastards will die, and your girls will become mine after all.”
“Bastard!”
“I wanted to fondle you for a long time now.”

The man looked at Tomeia with dirty eyes.
The moment Blitz tried to draw his sword, the man named Borg was blown away.
That was because I punched him, of course.
It wasn't my fault he had a face that looked really easy to punch, and he was just standing there, not even defending, and more than that, I was really pissed off. That was enough of a reason for me.
Since I wanted to finish him, I chased him, got on top of him, and continued punching him.
I didn't punch him too hard of course, to make sure that he wouldn't lose consciousness.

"You bastard!"

Bear Punch, Bear Punch, Kuma Punch.

"Get off of me!"

He was reaching for me with his arms, but…
Kuma Punch, Kuma Punch, Kuma Punch.

"Stop it…"

There was no way I would stop.
Kuma Punch, Kuma Punch, Kuma Punch.
His face began to change.
The hand that tried to stop me lost strength and fell to the floor.

"Ah, that was really great. I feel so refreshed now."

I got off of him.
When I looked around, Blitz, the remaining bandits who came out of the cave, and the women who were captured by the bandits were all looking at me.

"What happened?"
"Why are you even asking…"
"Did you also want to punch him? If you want to kill him, do it a bit later okay? He said something really interesting after all. I actually went easy on him, you know?"
"Went easy, you say…"

He said that the Guild Master of the Commerce Guild asked him to act as a bandit.
The adventurers who attacked me in the inn also told me that they were acting on his orders.
Was it possible that the Kraken also had something to do with this Guild Master?

“So, the bandits standing there, are you going to be captured nicely? Or do you want to be finished off like him?”

After hearing that, the bandits looked at Borg’s face. They shook their heads and threw down their weapons.

“Are any of your friends inside?”
“None. Just the captured women.”

The bandits responded obediently.
We went to save the girls who were captured inside the cave and took back the money that the bandits had stored there.
We also found horses and carriages, which we would use well.
We tied up all of the bandits, threw them on a carriage, and headed back towards the the city.

“We weren’t able to do anything, huh.”
“Yeah, and she defeated Borg so easily…”

Borg was conscious, but he was unable to move.
When he woke up, he was really noisy, so I made him do some bungee jumping without a cord.
I propelled him into the air using wind magic and let him eat dirt dozens of times.
I made an air cushion on the ground so that he wouldn’t die, of course.
Even when he lost consciousness, I would wake him up with water.
After doing it for a number of times;

“Please stop this! If you really have to do something, just kill me!”

He said something like that, but the ropeless bungee jumping continued, of course.
I wouldn’t do something like killing him just because he wanted to be freed from the pain. I would rather just crush any hope of escape.
In the end, he asked me to kill him so he could repent for his crimes, but that was not for me to decide.

That was for the women who were in the other carriage and the residents of the city to decide.

The carriages kept moving forward, and we joined up with Gumoris midway.
When we arrived at the city gate, the guards ran toward us.

“What is this, all of you?”
“We captured all of the bandits. We want to report this to the Adventurer’s Guild Master, is that okay?”

Blitz was talking as the representative.

“Is this true?”

They looked at the bandits who were on the carriage.

“I will make a report immediately!”

The guard ran off to the Adventurer’s Guild.
We helped the captured women out of the carriage.
They were all crying while hugging each other.
I could only imagine what had happened to them while they were captured by the bandits, but I didn’t find any words of comfort to share with them.
That wasn’t all. There should have been people who left the city with them.
Husbands, parents, and possibly children.
That’s why, I, who didn’t understand their pains, could only watch.
The captured girls thanked us over and over again.
It had been a long time since something made me remember that I was not in my world or the game one.

After some time passed, the Guild Master arrived.

“Yuna! You really subjugated them!?”
“These adventurers here helped me, after all.”
“You say that, but we didn’t do anything.”
“You tied up the bandits, took care of the women, and led the carriages, didn’t you?”

I couldn’t take care of the women and didn’t know how to lead a carriage.
I really had no idea what would have happened if I was there alone.

“And, the bandits you have captured, are they those bastards?”

Atora-san was looking at the bandits who were on the carriage.

“You guys are…”
“You know them?”
“Yes, they are adventurers from this city. They are the ones who went out as guards for the carriages and those who disappeared before I realized it. I thought that they fled because they feared the Kraken. I really didn’t think that they would turn out to be the bandits.”

The former adventurers couldn’t look at the Guild Master’s eyes and instead faced the ground.

“Also, we heard a really interesting story from the bandits.”
“Interesting story?”

I told her about the Commerce Guild’s Master.

“Hoo, that’s really an interesting story. I also found out a lot of things here while you were away.”

An angry smile crept onto Atora-san’s face.

Chapter 90
Bear-san In The Middle Of An Incident, Second Occurrence

【Commerce Guild Master's Point of View】

What was the meaning of this?
The adventurers I sent to attack the girl at the inn didn't come back.
When I decided to ask other people to go and check, they said the place was really calm.
Was it possible that they didn't attack her even though I paid them?
I couldn't find any other reason than that.
The next morning, one of my subordinates came to my room in the Commerce Guild.

"Master."
"What happened?"
"The people you sent to capture the girl yesterday were arrested this morning."

What was this bastard saying? I asked them to attack her during the night, didn't I? So why would they be arrested in the morning?

"Are you sure that it was in the morning?"
"Yes. This morning, we saw them being taken away by some Adventurer's Guild employees."
"Those idiots, did they attack in the morning?"

If it was like this, I could understand why they didn't return yesterday night.
That might be so, but was there anyone who would attack early in the morning?
More than that, they were also arrested. They had to be idiots.
This was why I hated idiots who didn't follow my orders.
Thanks to that, people would start suspecting me, you know!

"What will we do?"
"Let it be."
"But…"

“Even if they bring up my name, there’s no proof. We just have to say that they are falsely accusing us.”

Since they had failed, we couldn’t attack her ever again.
What a bunch of useless adventurers.
The only problem was finding out how much food the brat possessed.
She shouldn’t have much of it, but it was still troublesome.

Knock Knock
Someone knocked on the door.

“What is it?”

An employee entered.

“The Adventurer’s Guild Master is here.”

I knew she would come.
I made my men leave and told the employee,

“Let her enter the room.”

A woman wearing clothes that emphasized her chest entered.
It was Atora, the Guild Master of the Adventurer’s Guild.

“It has been a while.”
“So, what do you want?”
“Yesterday night, the inn was attacked by adventurers, do you know something about it?”

Yesterday night?
I had just heard that they were captured this morning?

“No idea.”

I decided to say that I didn’t know about it, for now.

“The ones who attacked were adventurers who were going in and out of your Commerce Guild though.”

“That’s not enough of a reason for me to know about every adventurers’ movements, isn’t it?”
“However, the adventurers we captured said that they were following your orders.”
“No idea what you are talking about. Why would I want to attack an adventurer who I don’t even know?”
“To take away her wolves, right?”
“Are you telling me that the one who gave your stupid Adventurer’s Guild all those wolves was this adventurer?”

I already knew, but I pretended that I had heard about it just now.

“Yes, she is a really cute adventurer. The fact that a girl like her was attacked makes me really angry, you know.”
“Then how about executing the adventurers you arrested?”
“So, are you saying that you are not related to this event in any way?”
“Of course. I don’t even know when I will be attacked as well, so I would really recommend you to proceed with their execution.”
“Understood. I will be back.”

‘You don’t have to come.’, I thought to myself.
Atora went back, but I couldn’t think of this matter as finished.
I didn’t really understand what that Guild Master was thinking.
I knew that the time would come when they would find out about me.
If I wanted leave the city, I had to do it fast.
I wanted to reap profits for one more month, but that couldn’t be helped.
This was the fault of my idiot subordinates, as well as that Bear Suit wearing girl.
I assembled the three subordinates who knew about my ties to the bandits.
There were not a lot of people who knew what I was doing in secrecy.
That was because having less of them didn’t permit any information leaks and disposing them would be simple.
I told those three that, even though it was a little early, I would flee this city.
I ordered to them to leave the city tonight, and meet up with Borg.
I planned to steal the money of the Commerce Guild just before they fled, and then blame the deed on those three.
I had planned for them to be killed by the bandits when those three met up with Borg.
If we just left the corpses on the road, then everyone would think that the bandits took the money.
The money I stole from the Commerce Guild would safely be mine after that.

“I will return home first. I will be fast, so go and prepare as well.”

I returned home, and put all of my valuable things inside an item bag.
I also put inside some valuables that I stole from the fleeing residents.
Everything from this city was mine, so there was no problem.
Borg was an idiot who didn’t want anything other than women and money, so it was easy to control him.
Well, he probably didn’t have any ways to resell the other valuables. It would be useless to explain the value of jewels to him after all.

When I finished putting all of my valuables and food inside my item bag, I went back to the Commerce Guild.
For some reason, the Commerce Guild was noisy.
What could be the reason?
Had something happened while I was away?
When I saw the faces of the employees, they were all smiling.

“What happened?”

I asked an employee near me who looked delighted.

“You see, it seems that the bandits were captured.”

What did he just say?

“With this, this city has a way out again. Food will be able to flow too. We can say farewell to the life we had to endure until now.”

The employee said this while looking really happy.
Don’t joke with me!
The bandits were subjugated, you said?
If that was true, then I couldn’t take care of my three subordinates.
Still, the biggest problem was,

“Did the bandits all die?”

If they had all died, then there was no problem.
A dead man couldn’t talk, after all.

“It seems that they were captured. And it appears that the bandits were, for the most part, adventurers from this city. They are currently being questioned by Adventurer’s Guild Master.”

They were alive!
That was really bad.
If they all said that it was me who commissioned them, it would be really difficult to get out of this mess.
Were there no good ways of escaping?

“Furthermore, it seems that the one who captured them was a girl wearing a bear suit, and I heard that she is really cute from one of my acquaintances.”

This bear again?
Who on earth was she?
She brought a lot of wolf meat, had an item bag that could contain all of them, captured the adventurers who attacked her in the morning, and finally, captured all of the bandits. What sort of bear was she!?

“Guild Master. With this, we can put the idea you had into actual practice. I really felt ashamed, but now, we can finally do something about it.”

Throughout the last month, in order for the employees to keep listening to me, I fed them one lie after the other.
First, we raised the price of the food, so that after the bandits were eliminated, we would have the money to buy a lot of it, and also be able to pay someone to kill the Kraken.
With that, half of the employees trusted me.
Those employees sold the food to the rich people, and I was able to earn a lot.
However, since the food was only being sold to rich people, the other employees and the populace started showing dissent.
Food couldn’t go to poor people.
I personally didn’t care about how many poor people died, but it would be troublesome, so I gave the parts of the wolves or other animals that didn’t sell well, as well as the fish that could hurt you when you ate it, to those who didn’t bring any money.

“Master?”

“Nothing. For now, we have to wait for the report from the Adventurer’s Guild. There might still be some bandits left.”

I didn’t think that bastard (Borg) could have been defeated.

“You are right. It would be really troublesome if we dispatched someone and there were some bandits left.”

The employee agreed with me, and then went away.
I returned to my room inside the Commerce Guild.
I couldn’t think of any good ideas.
At least, Borg wouldn’t have been captured and should be waiting at the place we agreed upon.
Otherwise, I just had to kill those three myself.
Still, I didn’t have enough information to make my move.
If I waited too long, the window to flee would disappear.
Even while just taking my time to think about this, time was ticking.
Lost in my thoughts, I heard someone knock on the door.

“What is it?”
“The Adventurer’s Guild Master came.”

She was here already?
What a woman with lots of free time.

“Lead her here then.”
“You see, she said she wanted you to come outside.”
“Why is that?”
“You see…”
“I understand. I just have to go, right?”

When I came out, the bandits I had employed were all lined up.
They were all tied up, and even their mouths were shut tight.
Did she call me out so that I could see this?
When I looked at the lined up bandits, Borg was…Borg?
His body showed that it was really him, but his face was in a terrible condition.
Even more than that, this Borg was quietly sitting on the floor.
The Borg I knew should have been acting violently by now. This was a scene I couldn’t even fathom.

Atora was standing guard in their midst.
Huh? I could see a little black thing behind Atora.
Bear?
There was a little girl wearing a Bear suit.
Was it possible that she was the Bear from the rumors? The bandits had been done in by a brat like this?
I could only laugh. My plans were destroyed by a strange girl like that?
To stop my laughter, I stifled a smile while asking a question as if nothing had happened.

“Are those the bandits?”
“That’s right. They all said that they were employed by you.”
“I have no idea why they would say that.”
“Are you really saying that again?”
“I don’t know what I don’t know.”

The bandits all glared at me.
It would have been better if they were killed right after they were caught.

“And where are you going, carrying this large item bag?”

I was wondering why she changed the subject so suddenly, but now I knew.
Was it possible that I had been monitored? Did they already know what I was doing here?
I looked into Atora’s eyes, and they were eyes filled with confidence.

“I am just using it for work. It has nothing to do with you.”
“Hoo, I see. Could I see what is inside it then?”
“I refuse. Why would I have to show it to you?”

I was right, she already knew.
If they had a look inside, there would be no more ways to slip out of this.
I had a lot of stolen items.

“I will take full responsibility! Capture Zarad!”

I tried to escape, but I couldn’t escape from the former adventurers, now employees of the Adventurer’s Guild.

“Stop it!”

They took my item bag and restrained me.

“Then, let me take a look at what’s inside.”

Atora pierced her sword through my item bag.
At that moment, all of the things inside the item bag spilled down on the floor.
The residents who saw it started making a fuss.

【Yuna’s point of view】

Atora-san forced me to come to the guild.
I didn’t think that they would need me though.
She said she wanted to bring out all of the bandits, and that they were really docile when I was with them. Was I some wild animal trainer?
She said that her reason for bringing the bandits was to see the other party’s reaction.
She was right, when he saw the face of Blitz’s friend, his expression changed.
Did I beat him a little too much?

For an instant, he looked in my direction and laughed a little. It was just for an instant, and then he turned towards Atora-san and started a verbal fight.

“I will take all responsibility! Capture Zarad!”

The employees of the Adventurer’s Guild started to move, and Atora-san took out her sword and pierced the item bag that the little plump man possessed.
The bag tore immediately, and all of the items inside it scattered on the floor.
When an item bag was torn, all of the items inside flowed out, huh.
Well, if it didn’t flow out when torn, you would be troubled, right?

“Hey, what is with this quantity?”

A lot of things that could be sold for money dropped on the floor.

“Huh, I saw that at Damon-san’s place!”
“And I saw that at Doju-san’s!”

The residents started making noise.

Among the things that were scattered on the floor, there was a little ring with a jewel inlaid. Seeing it, a woman muttered with a little voice.

“This is my…That’s the ring that the bandits stole from me when I was captured…”

The woman was one of the women who were captured by the bandits.
She rushed over and grasped the ring tightly.
Tears slowly dripped from her eyes.

“Sai…”

She called out a name.
Then she stood up and shouted.

“Bring Sai back!”

She approached Zarad and punched him in the face.

“Bring back Sai who you ordered the bandits to kill…”

The girl broke down crying.
Seeing that, the anger of the residents exploded.
Rocks were flung towards Zarad’s direction.
They pummelled his head and his body. Those rocks also hit the adventurers who were pinning him down.
The flying rocks were not stopping.
Blood started flowing from Zarad’s face.
Even after that, the residents didn’t stop throwing the rocks.
The employees of the Commerce Guild stood still, utterly dumbfounded.

“Stop it!”

Atora-san shouted.
Hearing her shout, the residents stopped throwing rocks and became silent.

“Zarad’s trial will be held as my responsibility. I assure that with my name as the Adventurer’s Guild master!”

Chapter 91
Bear-san And A Reason To Kill The Kraken

The Commerce Guild Master was now captured, and all of the accomplices were caught.
After everything was finished, the sun was setting, and it was already time for supper.

“It’s finally over.”

Deiga-san accompanied me back to the inn.

“I really didn’t believe you could subjugate the bandits all by yourself, you know! Now we can finally go and buy things in the next town, so let me thank you again. Thank you.”
“You don’t have to mind it. Actually, I wanted to do something about the Kraken, but…”
“Ahahahha! That’s impossible, as expected! Even the children know how strong the Kraken is. All we can do is pray that it will return to the ocean.”
“Sorry.”
“Why are you apologizing, missy? We are already very happy that you captured all of the bandits. And recently, there is wolf meat and flour on the market. That’s also thanks to you, isn’t it missy?”

I thought that the guild would keep it a secret though…

“There is nothing you can do about the people who already know. The Guild Master of the Adventurer’s Guild made me promise not to say anything though. She said that you are shy, and that’s why you don’t want to be thanked.”
“It’s just because it would be troublesome!”

I let my real thoughts out.
I ate dinner, and when I wanted to return to my room, Deiga-san stopped me.

“As I promised you this morning, I will make the best meal I can with what I have, so come to the dining room for lunch tomorrow. I will prepare everything tomorrow morning.”

“Is it really okay? You don’t have a lot of ingredients, right?”
“I don’t really mind. After all, this is the only thing I can do to thank you, missy.”
“I understand. I’m looking forward to it.”

I returned to my room, and in order for my tiredness of the day to fly away, I changed into the White Bear and summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, in their cub forms.

When I summoned them, Hugging Bear seemed strange.
He didn’t look at me, showing me his back instead.
From my past experiences, he was pouting.
Now that I thought about it, today, I went, fought, and came back on Swaying Bear’s back.
That was why he was pouting.
It would be bad if I didn’t take care of him.
Still, I was really tired now.
I decided to embrace Hugging Bear while I slept.
There was just one problem. If I slept embracing Hugging Bear like this, it was possible that Swaying Bear would pout.
I forcefully embraced Hugging Bear and slid inside my Futon.
Thanks to my tiredness and Hugging Bear’s warmth, I fell asleep really fast.

When I woke up the next day, Hugging Bear’s mood seemed to have improved, and there was no sign of Swaying Bear sulking. Perfect.
I unsummoned the two bears and changed into my Black Bear Suit.

When I came downstairs, Blitz and his party were all there.
The four of them were preparing to go on a journey.

“Are you going out of the city?”
“Yeah, but we will be back soon.”
“With the bandits gone, there are people who want to go to the next town to buy food, so we will act as their guards.”
“Well, it will only take ten days for a round trip. And if all goes well, we can shorten that time even more, so we are planning on returning really fast.”
“I see. I don’t know if I will still be here then, so I will say this now. Thanks for everything you helped me with.”
“That’s wrong! It’s us who should say thanks. Yuna-chan, if you were not here, it would have been impossible for us to subjugate the bandits.”

I still believed that they helped me, especially in dealing with the captured women.
I didn't have a lot of life experience, so I couldn't find any words of comfort for the women who were captured, and couldn't take any actions to help them.

"We will be going then."
"Take care."

Blitz raised his hand in response and left the inn.
After eating breakfast, I went outside as well, in order to feel the fresh air.

As I was walking around the city, the faces of all the residents I saw seemed a little happier.
When they noticed me, the people lowered their heads slightly.
The children rushed over to me as well.
It seemed that the fact that we defeated the bandits had been spread throughout the city.

When I stopped by the Adventurer's Guild, Atora-san and the employees seemed really busy.
They told me that the shore, previously controlled by the Commerce Guild, was now temporarily under the control of the Adventurer's Guild.
Atora-san seemed to be having a hard time.
I remembered the time when I saw Atora-san, alone inside the guild.
As a refreshment, I gave her a pudding.
When you were tired, sweet things were the best.
As I left the Adventurer's Guild, I bumped into Jeremo-san, the Commerce Guild's employee I met on my first day in this city.

"Missy, huh? Thanks a lot for all of this."
"Why are you here?"
"A job for the Commerce Guild. Because the Guild Master and others were captured, a lot of work was thrown onto an underling like me."
"I see."
"I was able to avoid being dragged into the Guild Master's crimes because I was just an underling though."

It seemed that the Commerce Guild Master remained silent even now.
It was certain that he was the ringleader behind the bandits' orders.

The residents asked for his disposal, but that was delayed for now.
Considering the feelings of the captured women, they wanted to execute him quickly, but because this was an independent city, as well as the fact that the Mayor already fled, there was no one to judge him, so they had to wait.
More importantly, Atora-san's job was not just investigating the criminals, including Zarad.
There were a lot more urgent things to do.
Since the bandits were subjugated, there were now more places where people could fish, so they had to distribute those places equally. The things stolen by the bandits also had to be redistributed. Some of the women were captured, but there were also a lot of people who were killed. Normally, those who subjugated the bandits received the loot, but we declined.
We gave it away, so that it could be sold to reduce the food shortage.
Atora-san told us that we were too naive, but she thanked us anyway.
Blitz said that he didn't want to receive it, since he hadn't actually done anything.
I returned to the inn just past noon, and a delicious scent drifted my way.

"Oh, you have returned. It's almost finished, so sit and wait."

As I sat down, a smell that stimulated my appetite drifted through the air.
After a few minutes, the meal was brought to me.
What was placed before me was something I had never seen in this world, but still something I knew very well.

"Rice…."
"What, you know of it already?"

What was in front of me was not white rice, but it was rice nonetheless.
It was cooked together with a lot of different ingredients, and resembled Chinese fried rice.
I ate one mouthful. It was a really nostalgic taste.
It was rice.
It was not white, but it was still delicious.
Accompanying this Cantonese rice was a grilled fish that had been caught in the sea.

"This fish was caught by my son this morning."

The bottle that was beside the fish bothered me more.
Was it possible that you put the contents of this bottle on the fish?

It was a somewhat black liquid.
I tried the fish with it. No doubt, it was soy sauce.
I then also tried fried rice with it.
I would prefer white rice, but I couldn't possibly say ungrateful things like that.

"Missy, are you crying?"

Before I knew it, tears were dropping from my eyes.

"Your meal was so good that it made me cry."

Being seen crying was embarrassing, so I wiped away my tears and answered while smiling.
I wasn't lying when I said that it was delicious.

"Really?"
"Yes, it's really delicious."
"I am happy that you say so, but you are not forcing yourself, are you?"

Did he think that I thought it tasted bad, and that I was forcing myself to eat it?

"This is exactly like the food from my country. I thought that I would never be able to eat it again, you see. I am so happy."
"This is exactly like your country's cuisine? Is it possible that you come from the country of Harmony and Peace?"
(TL note: 和の国 The oldest recorded name of Japan. 和 refers to Harmony/Peace.)

"The country of Harmony and Peace?"
"Am I wrong?"
"Yes. It's a place that is farther than that, a place so distant, I won't be able to go there anymore."
"You came from a place that far away? Aren't you lonely?"
"There are times when something makes me remember home, but this place is fun as well. Still, it's times like this, when I can taste my home country's taste, that makes me really happy."
"I see. I really would love to make more for you, but I don't have enough ingredients. Before the Kraken arrived, there was a boat that went to the country of Harmony and Peace once every month, but now…"
"The Kraken, huh…"

Did I really not have any ways to defeat it?
I thanked Deiga-san and left the inn.
I kept walking until I arrived at the ocean.
The vast sea.
Beyond it was a country with rice and soy sauce. It might be possible that they even have miso.
I absolutely wanted rice.
The Kraken, huh?
My way of fighting was restricted.
I could use a big war ship and, before it sank, kill the Kraken. The problem was, there were no ships like that in this city.
I could fly in the sky and kill it from there. The problem was, I couldn't fly.
To experiment, I went to the sandy beach and tried to freeze the sea.
It did freeze, but the waves covered it. If we started to fight, the Kraken would act violently. If that happened, the sea would grow wild, and the waves would exceed several meters, possibly even more than ten meters. If the ice broke, I wouldn't be in a position to fight.
So, the ice would have to be really thick, and if I had to mind my every step, I wouldn't be able to fight well.
If it was just a lake, I would be able to do it though.

Should I try to make a big bubble of air and dive into the sea?
I tried to make one, and entered the sea.
I entered the sea just fine.
Still, if I took an attack from the Kraken like this, that would be the end, wouldn't it?
Could I even attack from inside this bubble?
If it broke, that would be the end.
There was also the problem of oxygen.
Even after thinking a lot, I found no good ways for now.

Maybe I should ride the bears to battle?
I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

"Can you two swim?"

The two entered the sea and swam without trouble.
They could swim.
Well, polar bears could swim as well, right?

If we had a problem, it would be that I was the one who had never swam in the sea before. More importantly, how many years had it been since I last swam?
Thinking about it, the last time was when I was in primary school, during the lessons we had inside the school's pool.
If I fell off from the bears, I would certainly die.
Still, when I was on the bears, even if I slept, I wouldn't fall, so there might be no problem at the sea either.
If I rode on them, my lower half would be soaked without a doubt. When I fought, my whole body would get drenched as well.
It also didn't change the fact that I could do nothing to it if it dove into the depths of the sea.
I should put this plan in reserve.

Hmm, I couldn't find any ways to defeat it.
Was there a story of people who fought inside of the sea?
It would be the best if I could just breathe under the sea. There was no use asking for something impossible.
Couldn't I just divide the sea, like Moses did? No, that would be impossible. That way, I couldn't chase it if it fled.
More than that, I probably couldn't do it anyway.

…No good.
…Discarded.
…Rejected.
…Refused.
…Nope.
…Impossible.

Finally, a good idea hit me.
Yes, this was the idea I would go with.
If it failed, it wouldn't hurt me.
If it worked, I would be able to fight.
If it didn't work, I could just fight while riding on Swaying Bear or Hugging Bear.

Chapter 92
Bear-san Goes To Subjugate The Kraken

The next day, after having thought of a way to fight, I went to the Adventurer's Guild to get the permission to do it.
Like the previous day, the employees of the Adventurer's Guild were busy, and didn't stop moving at all.
The fact that half of the jobs they did should have been done by the Commerce Guild was strange.
Even though Atora-san was the one giving orders, the Commerce Guild's employees were also doing their jobs normally.
I found Atora-san, who seemed really busy, and talked to her.

"Yuna, why are you here?"
"I wanted to discuss something with you. If I may, I want to ask a favour from you."
"What would that be? If it's Yuna's request, I would do anything."

If I were a boy and heard this 『anything』, I would surely have a reaction.
While I was thinking about that, Atora-san approached.
Her big chest came close to my head.
Don't put those big things in front of me, please.
I wasn't jealous at all, okay!

"Is it okay if we go somewhere private?"

I looked around and asked that, so she led me to a room at the back of the guild.

"It's a bit messy, but please sit."

There were mountains of documents.
Were they all related to her additional responsibilities?
It started yesterday, right? Was it possible that Atora-san didn't sleep at all?

"So, what's your request?"
"I was thinking about defeating the Kraken, so I just wanted to request a few things from you."

"……"

Atora-san's mouth opened wide.

"Are you for real?"
"I now have a reason to kill it, so…"
"And what is this reason? Is it worth enough to put your life on the line?"
"It's not a significant reason. It's just really personal."

I couldn't really say that it was for the rice and soy sauce.

"Haa, so your request is "I want to defeat the Kraken, so help me, please", right?"
"I will fight the Kraken alone, so don't worry."

Atora-san approached me and put her hand on my forehead.

"You don't seem to have a fever… You know, a Kraken is not something you can fight on your own. Just because you were able to fight the bandits, that doesn't mean you can also fight the Kraken, you know."

Well, it was not a monster that you could fight alone in the game either.

"If I say 'Trust me', would that be enough?"
"I will just ask this. What are the chances of success?"
"If the Kraken appears at the place I want it to, I will defeat it."

Atora-san peered into my eyes for a long time, and then let out a little sigh.

"……I understand. So, what do I have to do?"
"On the path where the bandits appeared, there is a big cliff facing the sea, isn't there?"
"Yes."
"I want to fight around there, so I don't want anyone to approach it. Also, it will get dangerous on that day, so I would like for no one to go fishing."
"You will fight it there?"
"I don't really know how big the Kraken is, but with a cliff like that, I think it will be okay."
"And how will you make the Kraken go there?"

I explained what I would use as a bait.

“I don’t know if it will work though.”
“Fufufufu, that’s right. Nobody would ever think of baiting the Kraken, so no one has ever tried it, after all. But, even if you do manage to bait it, there is a possibility of it fleeing, isn’t there?”
“I don’t plan on letting it flee.”

When it came to the cliff, it would be in my territory.
I would carve the fear of being hunted into this Kraken.

“Hmm, I understand. I will need three days. Also, could you give us a bit more wolf meat?”

Atora-san thought about it for a while before accepting my request.
The three days were meant to convince the fishermen to not bring out their boats. The wolves were meant to restock, because there were none left.

I left everything concerning the residents to Atora-san and went to the cliff for some preliminary investigations.
As confirmed yesterday, mistakes weren’t allowed when the Kraken appeared. If the Kraken didn’t appear, it wouldn’t be a problem. If it came and I failed, it wouldn’t be possible to bait and capture it with the same method ever again.
From what I remembered, the Kraken’s length could range between twenty to hundreds of meters.
Between the depths of the sea and the highest point of the cliff, there was more than enough space.
After that, there was just one thing left to do. Pray that it would go well.

—-

The next day, Atora-san came to the inn.

“Yuna, two days from now, all boats will stay in port. I will also forbid everyone from leaving the city.”
“Hmm, this might be strange coming from me, who asked for this to happen, but aren’t you way too fast?”

I had made the request just yesterday. She had to explain everything to the residents, and persuading them should have taken even more time.

“I just had to convince the eldest and the most important person among the fishermen, and since the Adventurer’s Guild will be the one to take care of the cliff, there should be no problems.”
“But this grampa, did he really willingly accept not going out to sea that day?”

In such a case, it would be more normal for a stubborn old man to decline it.

“Well, in this city, no one would refuse a request that comes from you.”
“That’s just…”
“Well, you provided food, subjugated the bandits, and ended the oppression of the Commerce Guild. And now, you are also going to fight the Kraken for this city’s sake.”
“Regarding the Commerce Guild, that was not…”
“We discovered those problems when you gave out food and subjugated the bandits. It was also thanks to Yuna, wasn’t it? That’s why this gramps happily agreed to prevent the boats from setting sail. He also gave me a message for you. 『Don’t do the impossible. We are grateful already, Bear Missy. I don’t know how you will defeat this monster, but if you need some help, don’t hesitate to ask.』. It’s really impressive that you could make that gramp say something like that, you know.”

It was becoming harder and harder to admit that I was only fighting for the rice’s sake though…

The day of the fight came.
When I woke up, I looked outside my window.
It was a nice day to go and fight.
Having good weather was better than having rain, of course.
Since Atora-san had already made the preparations for the fight, I would be able do my best. I really couldn’t say something like ‘It is raining today, so I won’t do it’, so I was really happy that the weather was good.

“Missy, are you going somewhere today?”
“I will go and take a walk. Why do you ask?”

Deiga-san asked me, but I couldn’t really say that I was going to subjugate the Kraken like it was nothing, so I said that.

“A walk, huh… Missy, I will make you a good breakfast, so eat well before going, okay?”
“Your meals are always delicious, Deiga-san.”

I told him how I really felt.

“Don’t make me cry!”

He sniffed, and I faintly saw tears in his eyes.

“I will prepare a meal and wait for you, so you have to come back!”
“Of course. I will be in your care for some more time, after all.”

He worriedly repeated that I had to come back so many times that it almost became awkwardly troublesome before I left.
Was he worried about me not paying for my stay?
When I arrived at the entrance of the city, I saw some employees of the Adventurer’s Guild, Atora-san included.

“Hello.”

I greeted them all.

“Hello.”

After Atora-san returned the greeting, the employees did the same as well.

“I will go then. After this, whatever happens, do not let anyone pass through.”

Atora-san gave her orders to the employees.
Wait, ‘I will go’?

“Is it possible that Atora-san wants to come with me?”
“Yes, of course. You will win after all, won’t you?”
“If I fight it, then it’s possible.”
“There is no problem then.”

When I left the city, I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

“Are these your summoned beasts?”

We talked about them when I was attacked at the inn and when I had to report on how I found the bandits, so there was no problem.

“Ride the black one, Swaying Bear, please.”
“Ara, is it okay?”
“I want to defeat the Kraken as soon as possible, and then take it easy, after all.”

I hopped onto Hugging Bear, and then the two bears headed towards the cliff.

“You are going to fight here, huh?”
“If it doesn’t come, I won’t be able to do anything, though.”

I brought out the bait that I would use to take care of the Kraken.
What came out was a worm that was dozens of meters long. Since time was stopped inside of the Bear Box, it was a raw, freshly killed worm.

“You really had something like that, huh.”
“It’s from the time when that Hero title was stuck to me.”
“I can finally understand now. I am not the King, but I absolutely don’t want to argue with you. Become my friend as well, please.”
“If you don’t try to take away what I think of as important, I don’t plan to become your enemy.”
“I understand. I will be careful.”

I was working while we were having this kind of talk.
I used ice magic to coat the lower half of the worm in ice and hung it over the cliff, right above the ocean. It looked like the worm was suspended over the water by a giant icicle.
I set it up so that half of the worm was submerged in the sea.
A long time ago, I saw people use larvae to capture fish on TV. Worms looked like larvae, didn’t they? So I thought, ‘Wouldn’t that be great bait for the Kraken?’.
The key point was that the Kraken was a carnivore that ate humans.
In that case, it wouldn’t be strange for it to eat a worm, right?

The worm was huge. That made its odor spread inside the sea much easier and faster.
If all went well, there was a possibility that the Kraken would come all the way to this cliff.
If it didn’t, I didn’t have any choice other than fighting it on the sea while riding the bears. I didn’t want to fight like that, so I prayed that it would come.

It had been one hour since the worm was suspended from the cliff.
If I wasn't daydreaming, the waves were getting bigger.
I wasn't daydreaming, they really were getting bigger.
When I used detection magic to confirm it, I saw the Kraken approaching.
Then, a long and narrow tentacle leapt out and coiled around the worm.
The ice broke, and the worm plunged into the sea.

"Yuna!"
"Atora-san, please move back!"

I began casting my earth magic and created an image.
A giant bear, dozens of meters in size.
From the depths of the sea to the center of the cliff, forming a semicircle, a lot of earth bears emerged. I had just constructed a wall of bears.
It had been awhile since I last used such an enormous amount of magic, and the fatigue that came with a large expenditure of magic power hit me.
I didn't just make them big, I also made them sturdy, so that the Kraken wouldn't be able to break them. Yet, in proportion to this, I used up a lot more magic power.
Thanks to using that much power, I could lock up the Kraken inside the wall of bears.
The Kraken did not realize that he was imprisoned and was still eating the worm.
It was a really big squid.
The Kraken was a monster that represented either a big octopus or a big squid.
In this case, it was more like a big squid.

I made a lot of Fire Bears and launched them at the Kraken.
The Fire Bears hit it square on and burned its flesh.
The scent of the burnt flesh reached us, and the Kraken dove into the sea in order to put the flames out.
The Kraken noticed me, and stretched out its tentacles. Would they reach me?
I didn't know how long the Kraken was, but it was long enough to stretch its tentacles to the top of the cliff.
I dodged the tentacles and launched Fire Bears at them. The tentacles were lit on fire, but the Kraken quickly plunged them underwater to put out the flames.
I was creating Fire Bears one after another.
The Kraken tried to flee towards the ocean, but it couldn't, thanks to the Bear Wall.
If it came up to the surface, I attacked it.
Even if it didn't come up, I still attacked it.
The temperature of the sea water rose, thanks to the Fire Bears.

The Kraken suffered while continuing to struggle. Time and time again, it rammed the Bear Wall.

I used up a lot of magic power to make that wall. If it broke that easily, it would really upset me.
The sea water was boiling, makes lots of bubbles.
The Kraken stretched its tentacles to climb the Bear Wall, but I wouldn't let it do that.
With a Bear Cutter, I cut off his tentacles. They regenerated rapidly though, and the tentacles stretched out once again.
Wasn't that an infinite food dispenser?
It was only limited to the tentacles, though.
The Kraken continued to stretch its tentacles without stopping.

This was the fight between my magic power and the Kraken's strength. If my magic power dried up, the Kraken would flee.
I should have made the Bear Wall bigger. I really didn't think that the Kraken would be this big.
We weren't having a melee fight, so I started thinking that I should have put on the White Bear Suit to fight it. If I did that, I could have recovered my magic power while fighting it.
If my magic power dried up, then, I would have to do a strip show to change into the White Bear Suit here, huh.
I really didn't want to do that…
Even though it was just Atora-san here, changing in front of people was embarrassing.
Still, if it would be of help in killing this Kraken, I would have no choice but to do a strip show.

Thanks to the Fire Bears, the sea was now boiling, and vapor started to rise up, making the sea look like a steam bath. The surrounding temperature also rose because of that.
It was really hot, but thanks to the Bear Suit, I didn't feel hot at all.
Because of the water's high temperature, the Kraken was now struggling desperately.
When a part of the cliff started to crumble, I understood that it was at its limit.
I continued to inflict more damage to the Kraken, so that it wouldn't escape.
At that moment, I thought that it would have been great if I also made a lid.
If I started making a lid strong enough to trap it now, I would be really worried about the magic power that would remain.
Hmm, it was an idea that I had just recently thought about, so there were a lot of flaws to my plan.
If I ever had to fight like this again, I would have to pay more attention to the details.

This exchange of blows, where I one-sidedly launched Fire Bears at the Kraken, continued.

The Kraken continued to stretch out its tentacles, doing its best to flee, but I didn't let it.
I prayed for this to finish quickly.
The feeling of fatigue was becoming worse and worse.
I could feel my magic power starting to dry up.
Was it time for a really fast strip show?
The moment I thought about that, the movements of the Kraken suddenly became dull.
It couldn't raise its tentacles nor ram into the Bear Wall anymore.
I stopped attacking and looked at the state of things.

The Kraken stopped moving.

I used detection magic and checked if the Kraken's signal had really disappeared.

It was over…
I sat on the floor and laid down.
So tired.
I used up too much magic power, so my body felt really sluggish.

"Yuna!"

Atora-san rushed over.
Streams of sweat were flowing from her face.
It was really hot here after all.

"Atora-san, it's over."
"Is it really dead?"

Atora-san looked at the Kraken that was currently floating on the boiling sea.
The Kraken didn't move.
I checked using detection magic, so there was no doubt about it.

"Don't worry, it's dead. Atora-san, can I leave the aftermath to you? As expected, I used too much magic power this time. I just can't move anymore. My movements are sluggish, and I feel sleepy."

I didn't have the strength to even walk.

"Yes, no problem. And really, thank you very much."

Without revealing that it was for the rice and soy sauce, I responded with a smile.
I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.
Hugging Bear approached me and crouched down so that it would be easier for me to ride him.

"Thanks."

With me riding on Hugging Bear and Atora-san riding on Swaying Bear, we returned to the city.
When we arrived at the city entrance, a lot of people were assembled at the gate.

"Master!"

The employees ran up to us.

"What's happening here?"
"When you were gone, there was a report of someone seeing the Kraken, so the residents started making a fuss."

Atora-san thought about it for a bit, then opened her mouth to speak.

"Speaking of the Kraken, this girl killed it."

She pointed at me, who was currently collapsed on Hugging Bear.
Ah, I forgot to tell her not to make a big fuss about it.
The current me didn't even have the strength to request that.
I just really wanted to go back to the inn to sleep.

"Master, is that true?"
"Yes, it is. If you don't believe me, you can go and see it for yourself. The dead body of the Kraken is there, after all."
"Isn't it dangerous?"

One of the guild employees asked.

Atora-san responded.

“What is? There are no bandits, and no Kraken. What could possibly be dangerous?”
“That’s…”
“More importantly, won’t you open the way? I want to let the hero who saved this city get her sleep at the inn.”
“But letting these bears inside the city is…”

He looked at Hugging Bear.

“There will be no danger. I guarantee it. And the least I can do is not ask the hero who saved the city by exhausting her strength against the Kraken, to get down from this bear. And I will scorn anyone who will say that as well.”

Atora-san shut the mouths of the crowd with just a look.
The guild employees and the residents cleared a path.
When they made way for me, Hugging Bear, who I was riding, moved forward and walked towards the inn.
When I arrived at the inn, Deiga-san screamed.

“Missy!”
“Don’t worry. I am just tired, so I will just sleep for a while. Don’t wake me up, okay?”

The big form of Hugging Bear entered the inn, and started moving upstairs by climbing the narrow stairs. Behind him, Swaying Bear also followed. When we arrived to the room, I got down from Hugging Bear and opened the door.

“Hugging Bear, thank you very much.”

I transformed Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear into their cub forms, and entered the room.

“Even if it’s the president, the prime minister, or the king, no matter who, don’t wake me up please.”

It was just past noon, but I was already dead tired.
That was because I overused my magic.
I was so tired.
I did my best to change into the White Bear Suit.

I then collapsed on my bed like that, and the bears snuggled up close to me. While thanking the bears, I fell asleep.

Chapter 93
Bear-san Opens Her Eyes

When I opened my eyes, the bears were snuggled up next to me.
What time was it?
I climbed out of the bed and opened the curtains and window.
I could see the sun rising over the sea.
I went to sleep at lunch time, and woke up in the morning. How long had I slept for?
From a rough calculation, it was at least 16 hours.
As expected, with this much sleep, my weariness had disappeared, and my magic power was restored. It was a bit early, but I changed back into the Black Bear and unsummoned my bodyguards.
When I left the room and went to the first floor, I saw Deiga-san leaving the room at the back of the inn.

"Missy, you woke up! Are you feeling okay now?"
"Good morning. I am feeling fine. I was just tired because I overused my magic power."
"I see. So, you are okay now."

He seemed to be relieved. He was probably worried about me.

"Missy, you really are a great adventurer, huh. Even though you are so cute…"
"You heard of what happened with the Kraken?"
"I asked Atora-san when missy returned to the inn."

Well, I came back looking really rough, so it was natural for him to ask.

"So, are you hungry? You haven't eaten anything since breakfast yesterday, have you?"

I touched my stomach.
It was flat.
I wasn't talking about my chest! My stomach was flat.

"It seems that I am hungry."
"Then I will prepare something right now, so please wait."

Deiga-san moved to the kitchen.

“You can take your time.”

While I was waiting for Deiga-san’s cuisine in a daze, Atora-san entered the inn.

“Yuna, you were awake!?”
“I just woke up.”
“Do you have any injuries, or any other problems?”
“I’m fine. Because I went to sleep early, I recovered my magic power and am now back to normal.”
“I was really worried when I saw that you still weren’t awake when nighttime arrived.”

She looked like she was really worried.
It seemed that I troubled both Deiga-san and Atora-san.

“Still, it’s great that you are okay.”

While I was talking with Atora-san, Deiga-san came back with a meal.

“Rice? I thought you didn’t have it anymore?”
“The people from the city brought it.”
“Why?”
“Yesterday was really crazy, you know. A lot of people came and assembled at the inn to thank you, missy.”
“It was intense, wasn’t it?”

Atora-san nodded at Deiga-san’s words.

“As soon as we returned to the city, the entire town found out that the Kraken had been defeated. When they heard that Yuna had defeated it, and that you were staying at this inn, they all rushed over.”

I wondered how many people there had been.
I didn’t really want to imagine it though.

“You were tired and asleep though. We couldn’t just wake you up. So, we persuaded them to not make too much noise and go back. But even after that, there were a lot of residents who came, one after the other, from every direction, and it was just terrible.”

While I was sleeping, something that troublesome happened, huh.

“Then, they all said that they wanted to thank you somehow. So when I said that you loved rice, all of them decided to gather the rest of the rice that they had left, and brought it here. They didn’t have much individually, but when all of it was assembled, we ended up with quite a lot of rice.”

That made me really happy.
Even though I had killed the Kraken, I didn’t know where the country of Harmony and Peace was. I also didn’t know when the boats would come. Due to that, I had believed that I couldn’t have any more rice for quite some time.

“This makes me really happy, but can I really take it? That’s some of your scarce and precious food, isn’t it?”
“What are you saying? Since you killed the Kraken, the food shortage is not a problem anymore. There’s plenty of food in the sea.”

Since it was like that, I would accept it gratefully.
Hmm, now that I think about it, did I do something bad for Blitz and the others, who went to buy food from Crimonia?
Well, I thought that they would buy things other than fish, so it should be okay.

“Since the residents came to thank me, that means that everybody knows that I killed the Kraken, doesn’t it?”
“There were people who saw your fight with the Kraken. That’s why the news spread out quickly.”

There had been people there?
I had not noticed at all.
If the fight had dragged out a little longer, I would have done a strip show in front of them.
Well, that was not the main problem, but still an important one.
In reality, I didn’t want to make a big fuss out of it, just like in the capital, but this time, there seemed to be no choice.
It would be impossible to say that it was an S rank adventurer who had killed it.

“They all agreed that they won’t cause any problems, but what are you so afraid of?”

“I just think that it will become really troublesome if the fact that I killed the Kraken spreads…”
“You don’t have to worry about that. It won’t spread to places outside this city. Other cities and towns don’t really interact much with this city anyway, so there aren’t a lot of people who know about the Kraken. And even if they heard about it, they wouldn’t believe that it was a 15 year old girl wearing a bear suit who killed it all by herself. Even I wouldn’t believe such a story if I only heard it.”

She was right. Nobody would believe that I had killed the Kraken alone.
It was more important to ask if anyone could even kill the Kraken by themselves?
I hadn’t really seen any strong people around here.
I really want to meet an rank S adventurer one day.

“I will try asking them to keep quiet about it. However, you shouldn’t count on it.”

Just thinking about it wouldn’t solve anything.
I could only pray that the rumors wouldn’t spread.
With the Kraken subjugated, I should just be happy that I would now be able to procure rice and soy sauce.

After eating my fill of the rice that the citizens had collected, Atora-san and I went outside for a morning walk. Even though it was still early in the morning, there were a lot of people outside.
They were all smiling, and conversations were blooming everywhere.
When they saw us leaving the inn, some older women approached us.

“You are the missy who killed the Kraken, aren’t you?”
“Such a cute girl killed that monster, huh.”
“Thank you very much. My husband went out to sea early in the morning. That was also thanks to you, missy.”
“Mine set sail as well. He had a really gloomy face before, but after he saw the dead Kraken, he came back crying.”
“In order to show our gratitude, we are going to have a seafood festival. So please, come and participate.”
“The men were making a real fuss yesterday, but you just collapsed and fell asleep after saving the city, right?”
“Atora said that you would be okay come the next day. That’s why the men departed early this morning, to procure some fresh fish and make a really delicious meal.”
“We will make really delicious food, so please join us for the festival.”

While the aunties were saying whatever they wanted, I decided to take my leave.
As we were walking through the city, many words of thanks flew my way.

If it continued like that, we probably wouldn't be able to run away, so we left the city and returned to the cliff where I had fought the Kraken.
Atora-san told me that, because the sea was boiling, people weren't able to approach the Kraken.
When we arrived at the cliff, we saw rising steam, as if we were at a spa town.

"It is becoming more bearable."

When we approached the cliff, we noticed an elderly man looking at the sea.

"Kuro-san."
"Miss Atora, huh."
"Kuro-san, why are you here?"
"I thought that if I stayed here, I would be able to meet the one who killed the monster, you know."
"What about fishing, though?"
"I left that task to the young'uns. I have to say my thanks to the person who did this. So, the one who killed it, is it the missy in the Bear Suit behind you?"
"Yeah, she's the one."

The grandpa, Kuro-san, approached me.

"I heard the story, but to think that it really was such a little girl. I am the person in charge of the fishing industry in this city. Thank you for saving our city and the sea."

The grandpa bowed.
『Telling a grandpa like this that the reason I had done it was for rice would be just』

"The fact that the boats can set sail is thanks to you as well, missy."

The grandpa looked at the sea, gazing at the boats on it.
『For the soy sauce…』

“I thought that no one would be able to kill this monster. It’s a monster that even the army might not be able to defeat. The people of this city don’t understand what an incredible thing you did.”
“……”

『This situation makes it impossible to reveal the real reason I did my best.』

“You don’t have to mind it that much. I just had a way to defeat it, that’s all.”

Those were the only words that I could think of.

“I see. If there’s something that causes you trouble in this city, just come and tell me. For you, Missy, I will do anything.”
“So, Yuna, what do you plan on doing with the Kraken?”

Atora-san asked me while looking at the Kraken that was floating in the sea.

“Is it possible to eat the Kraken?”
“Now that I think about it, it is.”
“What about the worm?”
“I heard that it’s a delicacy.”

That strange thing was a high quality ingredient?
I wouldn’t want eat it even if I was paid to, though…

“I will give it to the city then.”
“You sure? It’s worth a fortune, you know.”
“If it can be of use to the city, it’s okay. There are people who had their boats destroyed by it, aren’t there?”
“Are you really sure about this? This will help us a lot.”
“If you really want to give me something in return, just present me with a good plot of land in the city.”
“Yuna, you will live in the city?”

I shook my head.

“I will just make it my holiday villa. And I want to come back here with my acquaintances once it’s warmer.”
“If you want to swim, I recommend this city’s shores.”

Speaking of which, what sort of clothing did the people in this world swim in?
Did they wear swimsuits?
I didn't think that the people of this world would swim naked…or at least, I hoped they didn't.

"Anyways, bringing this Kraken back it to the city would be impossible because of its size. Disassembling it on the sea is also impossible."
(ED: The author removed some text where they mention making a swimsuit out of the Kraken, so the transition is somewhat sudden.)

"Just wait a little."

I used earth magic to make a stairway down the cliff, all the way to where the Kraken was.
I descended the stairs and removed the water that was within the boundaries of the Bear Wall using Water Magic.
After I finished, only the boiled Kraken and worm were left on the seabed.
When I got down to the seabed, I put both of them inside the Bear Box and proceeded to return to the top of the cliff.

"I really don't want people to know about this item bag, so please don't talk about it."
"Understood. Now that the water is gone, it really is a beautiful spectacle."

With the water gone, we could now see the bears that formed the earth wall, towering over the surroundings.

"I will make them disappear now."
"Wait a minute."

Grandpa Kuro stopped me.

"Couldn't you leave it like this?"
"Why?"
"So that we won't forget about what happened here. People are beings who forget things after time passes, including the fact that a Kraken appeared, and that missy saved us. It's so we do not forget about the people who disappeared into the sea."

Honestly, I didn't want to leave any traces behind and wanted to make it disappear, but when this grandpa said that much, I couldn't do it.
I accepted the grandpa's request.

"So, where do you want to dismantle it?"
"Let's see. It should be fine doing it on the nearby beach, right?"
"You're right. If someone asks how we transported it, we will just say that it was thanks to Yuna's magic, and everyone will acknowledge it."

I pulled out the Kraken and the worm onto the sandy beach near the cliff.
They were boiled really nicely.

"Using the seawater here, we can wash out the filth, so this will do. The ones who went out to sea should be coming back soon. I will call them."
"I will also go and call the guild employees who know how to dismantle."

I put the nervous grandpa on Swaying Bear, and returned to the city.
I didn't know how much time it would take for him to go back if he were to walk there alone.

"Missy, you made me experience a great thing at this age. I really didn't think that I would ever ride on a bear. I will go to the harbor then."
"And I will head to the Adventurer's Guild."

The two of them went in their respective directions.
When I was thinking about what to do now that I was left alone, Ranya-san approached me.

"Hello, Ranya-san."
"Hello, Yuna-chan. Thank you so much for killing the Kraken."
"I just did it for myself."
"We were saved by Yuna-chan so many times. On the mountain, the food shortage, the bandits, and even the Kraken. Oh right, speaking of which, what will you do about the Kraken? I went to see it yesterday, but you won't leave it like that, right?"
"Just now, the fisherman grandpa, Kuro-san, went to the harbor to fetch people to dismantle it. Atora-san went to the Adventurer's Guild to assemble more people as well."
"You will dismantle it?"

“We moved it to the sandy beach, so when it’s dismantled, I plan on giving it to the citizens to eat.”

The worm was just a supplement.
I wouldn’t eat it though.

“Then I have to go as well. Since Kuro-san went to the harbor, I will assemble the women. Yuna-chan, we will see each other soon.”

Ranya-san walked away.

Chapter 94
Bear-san Participates In The Festival

Now that I was alone, I decided to go back to where the Kraken was.
The Kraken was lying on the sand.
No matter how I looked at it, it was a giant squid.
The question was, could we really eat it?
Well, this world's ecosystem was different from Earth's, so it should be edible.
Still, eating the worm, which was just lying near the Kraken, would be absolutely impossible.
I had no interest in eating worms or larvae. Even if you said that I didn't know what it tasted like without trying it, I would never eat it.

While I waited by myself, three carriages arrived.
The carriages couldn't move on the sandy beach, of course, so they stopped halfway.
Grandpa Kuro got off the carriages, together with some other men.

"Missy, you are here already."

Grandpa Kuro approached me.

"You gathered a lot of men."
"We want to finish dismantling it quickly, so we can go enjoy the seafood festival."

Grandpa Kuro shouted orders to the men, so that they would start the preparations for dismantling.
The men responded loudly, and headed towards the Kraken.
When they moved past me, midway to the Kraken,

"Thank you."

They gave their appreciation.
It was a bit embarrassing.
Since the Kraken was huge, the men separated into three different groups and started doing different tasks.
Grandpa Kuro was giving out precise orders. The men listened to the orders and dismantled the monster. It seemed that grandpa Kuro really was a respected person.

While I was watching them work, more carriages arrived.
The people who got down from them were Atora-san and the people from the Adventurer's Guild.

"Compared to your bears, the carriages are really slow."

Atora-san complained while approaching me.
Please don't compare my bears to simple horses.
No matter how you looked at it, the bears were faster!
That was common sense, you know.

"Yuna, is it really okay for us to dismantle the worm?"
"You can sell it, eat it, or do whatever you want with it. But, you absolutely aren't allowed to put it inside my food. If you do it, even as a joke, I won't react mildly."
"No way, I would never pull a prank that could take my life."
"Still, is that strange thing really edible?"
"Dunno. I just heard that from other people, after all."
"Atora-san, if someone wanted to make you eat it, you wouldn't resist?"
"Not really. I really can't understand the reason why Yuna-chan would hate it so much."

So, it was food culture shock…
Thinking about it, which side did Fina stand on?
If possible, I would prefer it if she was on my side.

Atora-san and the other guild employees joined in on dismantling the worm.
Were they used to doing it? They took out their knives and started dismantling it quickly.
After I had moved a bit further away and was watching the two groups dismantle the beasts, Ranya-san arrived, bringing the women with her.

"I saw it yesterday, but looking at it up close, it really is huge."
"Ranya-san, will you help with dismantling it as well?"
"I am not as good as an expert, but a Kraken is just a big squid, isn't it? Anybody raised in this city should be able to do it. Still, I lack the experience to help with this one."

She said, while looking at the worm.
Even though she said that, the other women joined the two dismantling parties.
Thanks to that, the dismantling process sped up even more.

“Miss, can I take up some of your time?”

Grampa Kuro called out to me.

“We really can’t accept this much, so take this at least.”

He gave me a beautiful blue magic stone that was taken from the Kraken.
It was several times larger than the ones from the wolves.

“I have lived for many years, but this is the first time I have seen such a big magic stone. Just the stone proves how huge this monster was.”
“Can I really take it?”
“Even if we had this big magic stone in the city, it wouldn’t help us at all. It will be of more use to an adventurer like you, missy, compared to just selling it.”

I accepted it gratefully.

“Then Yuna, I will also give this one to you.”

I received the worm’s magic stone as well.
Brown?
It was an earth magic stone.
Was it like this because it lived underground?
This one was also many times larger than the magic stones obtained from the wolves.

After I received the magic stones, the disassembling work continued.
The disassembled parts were put on a carriage, and brought to the city.

“Missy, you can leave the dismantling to us. You should go back to the city and enjoy the festival. By now, people should be preparing the fish they caught this morning. We all really want you, missy, to enjoy it the most.”
“If the main star, you, isn’t there, the festival has no meaning. I will return to the city as well, so let’s go together. The Kraken and worm’s meat has already been transported and should be cooking at the center plaza.”

When I returned to the city with Atora-san, we saw seafood being cooked everywhere.
Was that hamaguri? Shellfish were good as well. Were there any shrimp or crabs?

As we walked while checking out all sorts of seafood that was being cooked, I noticed that everyone was looking at me.
(TL note: Hamaguri is a sort of clam. Also known as Meretrix lusoria.)

“You are the Bear Missy who killed the Kraken, aren’t you? Take this. It’s delicious.”

An auntie gave me some food on a small plate.
It was a dish made of clams and shrimp.
I ate one mouthful, and it was delicious. It made me crave some white rice.

“Missy, this one is delicious as well, you know!”

He gave me a grilled fish.
He put a good amount of soy sauce on it.
If you were talking about grilled fish, it had to come with soy sauce, right?
Ponzu would be even better, but asking for it in another world would be impossible, wouldn’t it?
(TL note: Ponzu: A mix of citrus and soy sauce.)

“Thank you.”

After these two dishes, more people from the city started thanking me and bringing me food.
I couldn’t hold everything when they brought so much.
Atora-san took the dishes that I couldn’t carry.

“Everyone, if you bring too much, it will trouble Yuna.”

Atora-san stopped the residents.
Well, even if I couldn’t eat all of it, I could just put it inside the Bear Box, so it was okay.
For now, I put all of the things they brought me inside the Bear Box.

“Thanks. I will eat all of it properly, so really, thanks a lot everyone.”

I gave my thanks and left.

“You are really popular!”
“I am happy that they are giving me food, but being approached by everyone is a pain.”

“Couldn’t you just take off the bear then? If you did that, they wouldn’t recognise you, would they?”

She was totally right.
However, I was scared that there might be some trouble, so I couldn’t really take it off.

“This is a cursed item. I can’t take it off.”
“Is that so? Does Yuna smell bad then?”
“Why?”

I took baths properly.

“You can’t take a bath while wearing it, can you?”
“That was a lie, you know.”

We ate while walking to our destination, the central plaza.
The central plaza was crowded with people, and the Kraken was being cooked.
Were they cooking it in order to show it to the other residents? One of the Kraken’s tentacles was being used for decoration.
It was long.

Since they were using soy sauce, a fragrant smell drifted towards us.
A lot of people were eating it.
Every time the cook finished grilling a piece, it was served to the people waiting in line.
Children and adults were all eating mountains of food.
It was probably because it had been a long time since they were able to eat until their stomachs were full.
As we watched the central plaza, the residents noticed us.
They were only looking at me, and no one approached us.

“They were all approaching you before, so I demanded that people don’t swarm you.”

That helped me a lot, but I felt like I was a bear in a zoo when they all looked at me like that.
A little boy and girl approached me, breaking the tension.

“Bear-san, thank you very much for killing the monster!”

The boy bowed.

“Mama said that we can eat now, and it is all thanks to Bear-san!”
“Bear-san, thank you!”

I put one knee on the ground to match their gazes.

“Are you eating a lot?”
“Yes!”

They answered with big smiles, and I stroked their heads.

“You have to eat a lot and help your mum as well, okay?”

The two children nodded and left.

“You are really kind to kids, huh.”
“That’s because they didn’t have any bad intentions towards me. But, if there is a child who does have bad intentions towards me, I won’t show mercy.”

If they hated me, I hated them as well. I didn’t even want to think about liking someone who hated me.

“Master!”

Sei, an employee from the Adventurer’s Guild, came up to us.

“I was waiting for you, with food.”

There was a plate with lots of food in his hands.

“Is that from the Kraken?”
“Yes, it is.”
“There is no worm meat inside, right?”
“None. I wouldn’t do something that could destroy this city.”

He brought us some grilled and fried squid.
The three of us found an improvised table and ate many different kinds of squid dishes.

During our meal, the two of them also ate some worm dishes.

“Delicious.”
“We normally can’t eat things like this after all.”

The worm was well cooked and prepared, so it would look really tasty, then distributed to the residents.
Still, when I remembered how it looked before, I wouldn’t even consider putting it inside my mouth.
The people of this world were really brave.
The banquet continued late into the night, and in the middle of it, Grandpa Kuro joined us.
Then I had to listen to stories about the sea’s beauty from the drunk grandpa for a really long time.
Atora-san was drinking as well, so it was really noisy.
Did the fact that I didn’t drink make me a loser?
When sunset came, I returned to the inn, in order to escape from them.
There was a drinking party at the inn as well, and the interior reeked of alcohol.

“Yuna-san, welcome back.”

Anzu, the daughter of the macho, greeted me.
She was a healthy looking girl with a light tan.
She was the exact opposite of the ex-hikikomori me, who had a pale complexion.

“This got really big, huh.”
“Well, it’s proof that everyone was really happy that they could go out to sea again. My big bro was really happy about it as well.”
“Where’s Deiga-san?”
“Dad’s dead drunk, so he’s asleep in the back.”
“So that’s why Anzu is here.”
“Yes. So, do you want to eat something, Yuna-san?”
“I ate a lot outside, so it’s okay.”
“Oh, right. There are a lot of different places with food today.”
“Anyways, what are you doing, Anzu?”
“I am tending to the store while preparing my own meal.”
“You haven’t eaten yet?”
“Dad got dead drunk really early, so I had to make the food for everyone.”
“What are you making then?”

“Sashimi. A meal where you cut the raw fish into fine slices. It originates from the country of Harmony and Peace. It’s very delicious when you eat it with soy sauce.”
“You have sashimi?”
“You want to eat some?”
“Can you cook some rice as well?”
“Honestly, I already cooked your rice, Yuna-chan. I absolutely wanted to eat the sashimi with rice. I’m really sorry.”
“No problem. I can understand that feeling, after all. Though, if there is none left for me, I will be angry.”
“Of course there’s some left for you.”

After getting my consent, Anzu prepared the fish beautifully. There was some squid and octopus mixed in as well.

“You are really good at making it.”
“Dad taught me well. I want to open my own shop in the future after all.”

Oh! I just got some really interesting information!
I had wanted to stockpile fish in Crimonia, but there was a possibility that I wouldn’t be able to find someone who could handle it well. It would be great to have someone as talented as Anzu.

“If I asked if you would be interested in working at my shop in Crimonia, would you come?”
“Yuna-san, you have a shop?”
“Yeah. I don’t work there, though. I just wanted to eat some fresh seafood in Crimonia as well, so I would be really happy if Anzu came.”
“If I could, I would love to go. Crimonia is really far though, and that means that I wouldn’t be able to see my family for a really long time, so I think I would be lonely.”

That meant that if it was closer, it would be okay, right?
A smile crept onto my face.
Anzu continued to eat her Kaisen-donburi, not understanding the reason for my smile.
(TL note: Kaisen-donburi: Rice in a bowl, with seafood on top.)

Chapter 95
Bear-san Makes a Tunnel

The next day, after eating breakfast, I returned to my room while remembering Anzu's words.
If it was closer, she would agree to go to Crimonia. Yet, for now, you had to take a large detour through the coastal road to get there. The only other option was to cross the mountain range. These two possibilities were both time consuming, and not very safe.

I wanted seafood to reach the town, though.
When I thought about, the best option would be to make a tunnel.
If there was a tunnel, the distance to Crimonia would be shorter, Anzu would come back with me, and seafood would be able to reach Crimonia.
There was a problem with making a tunnel, though.
You couldn't make a tunnel by just digging through the mountain.
There was a difference in altitudes.
If I just started digging horizontally, it was possible that I would just come out in the middle of the mountain on the other side. Also, if this side was lower than the other side, I would just end up digging through the earth forever.
If I didn't know what the difference in altitude was, I wouldn't be able to make a tunnel.
I opened my map to check.

"Huh?"

The map had changed.
It had been a 2D map previously, but now it was a 3D one.
When I looked around a little, I was able to find the difference in altitude.
Had the map leveled up when I killed the Kraken?
I checked to see if I had any new skills, but it didn't seem like it.
I looked at the map again.
I could see that the mountain range was very tall.
Ranya-san was really silly to even consider going up a mountain that tall.
It was a mountain that I absolutely wouldn't want to climb if I didn't have Swaying Bear with me.
The 3D map was a really useful thing for making a tunnel.

I looked for a good place to start digging on the map.
It had to be near the highway, as well as being close to a road that led to Crimonia.
Just as I found two possible spots, someone knocked on the door.

"Who is it?"
"It's Sei. Yuna-san, is it okay to talk with you for a bit?"

When I opened the door, Sei was standing there.

"What is it?"
"I am really sorry to bother you while you are resting. The guild master wants to speak with you, so could you come to the Adventurer's Guild?"
"Why does she want to talk with me?"

I refused anything troublesome.

"I believe she wants to talk to you about the city."

About the city?
I was told that I would hear all of the details from Atora-san, so it wasn't really possible to refuse the invitation. Therefore, I decided to go to the Adventurer's Guild.
When we arrived at the guild, I was led to the room in the back.
Atora-san, Grandpa Kuro, and two other elderly men I didn't know were inside.

"Yuna, you can sit wherever you want."
"Huh, what do you want?"

I sat on a chair as I asked that question.

"I wanted to request something of you."
"A request?"

I asked.

"I won't ask for the king, but could you be our contact with the Feudal Lord of Crimonia?"
"A contact?"
"A lot of things happened here recently, didn't they? The Mayor fled, there was a scandal with the Commerce Guild, and the Kraken appeared. If we leave everything as

it is, we will have a lot of troubles moving onward. So, I had an idea. Would it be possible for you to go and talk with the Feudal Lord-sama of Crimonia for us?"
"That means you want to join the province, right?"
"Yes, that's right."
"Have the other citizens been informed of something that important?"
"They haven't. However, they have entrusted us with what will happen to the city from now on."

Grandpa Kuro responded.

"These three are the people who have been elected. There are normally five of us, but two fled."
"So, after talking about it, we decided to join the province. When considering the future of the children of this city, the current system is inadequate."
"Then, when we were pondering which province would be good, we thought 'How about Crimonia, where Yuna came from?'"
"But, there are other cities that you are trading with, aren't there? Aren't those closer?"
"I don't know the situation in your province, but the Feudal Lords of those cities aren't any good. They only think about their own profits. Before the bandits appeared, we asked them to kill the Kraken for us, but they asked for an astronomical amount of money to do it."
"That was also one of the reasons we didn't try to stop the Commerce Guild. You see, they said that they were gathering money for the extermination fee, so we weren't able to say anything. If the Feudal Lords didn't ask for that much money, then maybe that bastard from the Commerce Guild wouldn't have done it."
"This is our fault as well."

The three old men hung their heads in shame.

I was wondering why Grandpa Kuro would willingly accept those orders from the Commerce Guild, but this was the reason, huh.
When they were told that it was to raise money for killing the Kraken, they had no choice but to obey, huh?

"This is why we would like Yuna to go and talk with the Feudal Lord-sama of Crimonia."
"Of course, we will pay taxes. In return, if something happens to the city, we want him to help us."

The old men all bowed.

“For now, I understand what you want, but I don’t know what will happen.”
“We don’t mind. So, can we ask you to do it?”
“I understand. If it’s just talking to him, I will do it.”
“That would save us. Please give this to the Feudal Lord-sama. All the details are written inside.”

I took the letter and stood up.
If I had to go, the faster I did it, the better.

“Are you going back right now?”
“Yeah, it just so happens that I have something to do there as well. Ah. Don’t forget about the plot of land I asked about, okay?”
“I will arrange it before you return.”

A villa (Bear House) in a slightly elevated place.
That sounded great.

I left the Adventurer’s Guild, went to the inn, and told Deiga-san everything that had happened today.

“This is really sudden.”
“They asked me to do something, you see. So, I will return to Crimonia.”
“I see. Even though I was thinking about making you a really delicious meal if any good fish had been caught…”

He looked really sad, but I, who wouldn’t be able to eat it, was even more sad about it.

“What will you do with the rice? Want me to look after it?”
“Nope. I will take it.”

He brought me to the inn’s storehouse.
There was a barrel containing rice inside.

“Can I really take it all?”
“Yeah, this is what all of the residents brought for you, missy.”

I put the whole barrel inside my Bear Box.
With this much, I would have enough for myself for quite some time.
As I left the inn, I thought about saying goodbye to Ranya-san and everyone else, but I would be back really quickly, so I decided to leave without saying anything.

I left the city and summoned Swaying Bear.
I hopped on his back and brought up the map.
I then headed towards the place I had seen when I was at the inn.
We ran on the highway and entered the forest at the halfway point.
I decided that I would deal with this place later, and headed towards the area where I had chosen to dig the tunnel.
There was another possible one, but I finally decided on this one.

Next, I made an improvised changing room and changed into the White Bear Suit.
Even though I knew there was no one around, I didn't have the courage to be outside in my underwear.
I changed into the White Bear because I would be using magic power.
That was why I didn't forget to change this time around.
I really didn't want to collapse as a result of using too much magic power.

I looked at the map and confirmed my destination.
There was a difference in altitude, so I had to make the tunnel at a slight angle. If I didn't do that, carriages would have a lot of trouble passing through.
It would be difficult to handle fine details while riding on Swaying Bear, so I decided to walk as I made the tunnel.
Considering the size of carriages, the tunnel had to be roughly this large. First, I decided on the dimensions of the tunnel. After that was dealt with, I would only have to dig. When I entered the tunnel that I had started making, it was really dark, so I decided to create a Bear Light inside of the tunnel.
I dug as I walked. I hardened them to prevent them from crumbling, and then smoothed the ground so that it wouldn't be bumpy. Surprisingly, it was a really troublesome task. It would be easy if I just had to dig a hole, but hardening the walls and flattening the ground took time.
Well, it just took time and didn't use a lot of magic, so I was able to dig the tunnel while moving at walking speed.
I checked the direction and difference in altitude every now and then.
After digging for several kilometers while checking the map, I was on the brink of arriving at the opposite side of the mountain.
After just a few more minutes, the tunnel was completed.

I finally got out.

By the time I got out, the sun had already set, and it had gotten dark.
I would have to sleep here now, huh.
I flattened the ground by the entrance of the tunnel and brought out the Bear House I used solely for travel.
Even though I had just made a tunnel, the White Bear was still perfectly clean.
That was the Bear Suit for you.
I entered the Bear House and prepared for dinner. Tonight's meal was fish with rice.
Before I took a bath and went to bed, I contacted Fina.
I told her that I would be returning tomorrow, and since I had souvenirs, we promised to eat lunch together at the orphanage.

I took a bath, and because I was mentally worn out from making the tunnel, I went to bed early.
The next morning, I went to Crimonia.
I waved at the soldiers guarding the gate and entered the town.

I made it in time for my appointment with Fina.
When I arrived at the orphanage, the children playing outside cheerfully approached me.
There were even more children I didn't remember seeing before, but I decided to ignore it.
If they were on good terms with each other, I had nothing to say.
When I arrived at the entrance of the orphanage, Fina and the Headmistress of the orphanage came out to see me.

"Big Sis Yuna, welcome back."
"I'm back. Nothing happened?"

Well, if something had happened, she would have contacted me. She hadn't mentioned anything yesterday either. This calm atmosphere also told me that nothing bad had happened.

"Yes, nothing happened. The shop is doing fine, and mom and dad are intimate with each other."

That was a good thing.
Fina could get a little brother or sister in the near future.

“Headmistress, here is a souvenir. Give it to the children during lunch please.”

I brought out the enormous amount of seafood I had received during the festival.

“Is this fish? You brought us something really unusual. It’s a little early, but I will call the children, and we can have lunch.”
“I will call them for you.”

Fina left the room to call the children.

“Headmistress, you know about fish?”
“I have only tried a bit of river fish.”

Well, river fish was something really high class, so it was not something you could eat at an orphanage.
Considering this, I really had to make Anzu come here, by any means possible.
After finishing my meal with the children, I headed towards the Feudal Lord’s house to see Cliff.

Author’s note:
This time, I used a new skill that made it more convenient for me to write this chapter. I don’t really like when new skills are used immediately, but this time, I really needed this 3D map to make the tunnel, so I decided to upgrade the map skill.

I thought about other ways to make a tunnel while considering the difference in altitude, with the skills that she already had.
① She would dig randomly. (bulldozing)
② The earth magic could also measure the difference in altitude.
③ Making the Bears stand at the entrance and the exit, and digging while taking that into account.
④ Using a worm made from earth magic. (I couldn’t find a good idea)

So finally, the simplest way was to use the 3D map.
It was for my own convenience, but please, ignore it for me.

Chapter 96
Bear-san Goes To See Cliff

When I arrived at the Feudal Lord's mansion, I told the guard, who I remembered seeing before, that I wanted to see Cliff.
He let me pass immediately, and I was able to meet Cliff just like that.
Did Cliff have too much free time?

"That's rare, for you to ask for me and not Noa."
"You see, someone requested that I give this to you."

I gave him the letter that Grandpa Kuro gave me.
Cliff, who accepted it, looked over it immediately.
When he finished reading the letter, he sighed.

"Just what are you doing… Defeating a Kraken by yourself, that's just not possible, is it?"
"The fact that I killed it was included?"

Even though I asked Atora-san to keep it a secret…

"They didn't say that you did it, but that a lone adventurer killed it. Everyone who knows you would know that you were the one who did it!"

He said, looking exasperated.
He was right. Cliff, who knew that I had killed 10,000 monsters and a worm, would know who the message was referring to.
Still, Grandpa Kuro… You couldn't have found a better way of concealing it?

"It's not like I killed it because I like killing things, you know. The Kraken was blocking my path, so I got rid of it, that's all there is to it."

My path = the path to rice.

"'Blocking my way'… You, what sort of a supreme ruler are you? Are you on your way to dominate the world?"
"I won't do something so troublesome."

“You are not saying that you can’t do it, huh.”
“It’s impossible for me.”

I really didn’t plan on doing it.
What was fun about controlling the world?
I would prefer taking a nap over doing something that troublesome.

“Well then, what worries me more than Yuna are the contents of the letter.”
“What is written inside?”

They explained things to a certain extent, but they didn’t say what they would write inside the letter.

“To summarize, they wrote about everything that happened this month, and are willing to pay taxes if they are allowed to enter our province. I really can’t imagine the things you did inside of that city…”

After he said the last part, he looked into the distance.

“Did they really write that much about me?”
“They wrote that an adventurer saved them by donating food, subjugated a bandit group with the help of four others, saved the people who were captured, and finally, that this adventurer killed the Kraken as well, yet didn’t ask for any monetary compensation… They never wrote your name, so you don’t have to worry.”

What was okay about it??
At least people who didn’t know about me wouldn’t be able to link all of those events to me. They would have to know me as well as Cliff did to find out.

“Well, leaving you aside, it’s more important to consider how we will speak with them. We will have to meet each other to discuss this, won’t we? Yet, their city doesn’t have a Mayor. For now, the ones who are tending to the matters of the city are three old men, and the Guild Master is assisting them. Making old men come here would be really terrible to do.”
“Cliff, you are free right now, aren’t you? Couldn’t you just go there yourself?”
“You… Even if you say that, I’m a Feudal Lord, you know. I have work to do as well. I can’t just leave the town for a long period.”
“It will just take you half a day to go there, you know.”

After hearing my answer, Cliff retorted with,

"…It seems that I will have to call a doctor for you."

He looked really serious.

"I don't have a fever."
"You can't be well, right? How could you possibly reach a city on the other side of the mountain range in half a day? Fly through the sky?"

Cliff imitated a flying bird, conveying that he thought I was out of my mind.

"I can't fly in the sky, but I made a tunnel."
"…Huh?"

Cliff stopped his bird performance.

"Sorry, could you say that one more time?"
"I dug out a tunnel, so you can get there in half a day on Swaying Bear."

Cliff held his head in his hands.

"You aren't lying, are you?…If it's you, it's possible, huh? You really made a tunnel through the mountain range, and in just a couple of days, that is…"

One day, to be precise.

"Did you really make it?"
"I did. I wanted to have a circulation of goods."
"I always believed that your existence was irrational, but I didn't know that it was to this extent."
"That's why you can get there in half a day on Swaying Bear. But, if you plan on making Grandpa Kuro come here, we will have to take a carriage, and that will take some more time."
"No. I want to see the city, so I will go."

What a fast decision.
It was still better than writhing in worry though.

“I also have to check the tunnel you made.”

Check you said? It was like being marked on a test, so I didn’t really like that, though…

“When are we leaving then?”
“I have an urgent job to finish tomorrow. I also have to contact the Commerce Guild, so we can depart the day after tomorrow.”
“The Commerce Guild?”
“According to what was written in the letter, it seems that the Commerce Guild Master carried out some serious crimes. I have to inform them. If possible, I would like the Guild Master to accompany us, but how many people can your bears carry?”
“Two normal adults, I think. But, if it is someone like the Adventurer’s Guild Master, just one…”

Even if it was just one of those bundles of muscle, I would feel bad for Swaying Bear.

“It’s fine then. The Commerce Guild Master is a girl, after all. I am sorry, but if she wants to come along, could I ask you and your bears to do it?”
“No problem.”

We couldn’t really let their Commerce Guild stay in such a mess. The punishment of their Guild Master hadn’t been decided yet either. Asking her to come along would help Mireera a lot.

“We will go to your house the day after tomorrow then.”

After making that promise with Cliff, I left his room just in time for Noa to come rushing towards me.

“Yuna-san. When you come, please call on me!”
“I had some business with Cliff today, you see.”
“And are you finished now?”
“For now, yes.”
“You have some time then, right?”

She was inviting me with a really cute smile, and the person behind her was smiling at me as well. However, why was it that I felt fear from that smile?

“Is it okay? A butler has been looking this way while smiling from the beginning though…”

Noa looked behind her and turned pale.
I knew it, Noa had also noticed the emotions hiding behind that smile.

“Miss Noire, you are in the middle of your studies right now.”
“I am tired. I want a break. I have to take my Bear dosage.”

What was with that response. This Bear dosage, that was the first time I had heard about such a medication.
If such a medication really existed and I revealed it on Earth, I would definitely get the Nobel Prize.
The butler took a look at Noa, who was playing with her fingers, and let out a slight sigh.

“I understand. Just for a bit then. Miss Yuna, can I ask you to take care of Miss Noire for a little while, please?”
“No problem.”
“I am counting on you then. I will go and prepare some drinks.”

The butler bowed and left.

“Let’s go to my room then, Yuna-san.”

She held my Bear Hand tightly, and pulled me along with her.

“So, where did Yuna-san go?”
“I went to the sea behind the Erezento mountain range.”
“You went over the mountain?”
“I have my bears, after all.”
“The Bear-sans are really impressive. The sea, huh. That’s cool. I also want to go there someday.”
“Then, do you want to go there when it’s warmer?”
“I would love to go, but Dad doesn’t let me to go too far away.”
“Don’t worry. It’s close now.”
“…?”

Noa tilted her head, confused.

I couldn't talk about the tunnel yet, so I decided to be vague.

"I will persuade him when the time comes."
"Really? It's a promise then! And, Yuna-san, I have a request, but…"

She was looking at me shyly, with upturned eyes.
It was a cute, even to a girl like me.
If I were a lolicon man, I would have definitely accepted her request.
Well, since I was able to predict what she would ask, I would probably accept it anyway.

"Could you bring the Bear-sans out?"

I knew that it would be this. She just asked for her Bear dosage after all.
I decided to show her the cub forms of Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, since it was a good time to do so.

"W, W, W, What are those! Those Bear-saaaans!"
"Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear. If they are of this size, it's okay to bring them inside your room, right?"

Noa approached the bears slowly.
They wouldn't flee even if she didn't do that though…
Then, she hugged both of them.

"Yuna-san, please give these two to me!!!"
"I will not."

It went without saying that Noa didn't want to let go of the bears even after her break finished and really angered the butler.

Chapter 97
Bear-san Heads To The Tunnel

On the day of the departure, Cliff and Mylene-san came to the Bear House, where I was waiting for them.

“We made you wait.”
“I didn’t wait very long. Why is Mylene-san here though?”

They were a surprising combination. I might have thought that since it was rare to see them together, though.

“Are you really asking why? Mylene is the Commerce Guild’s master of this town, you know. If I remember correctly, you two are acquaintances, right?”

Cliff said, looking as if he just remembered something.
This was the first time I had heard of it. Now that I thought about it, I had never met the Commerce Guild’s master.

“We know each other, but… Mylene-san, you are the guild master?”
“Oh, did I forget to tell you?”

She said, playing dumb.
She definitely didn’t tell me on purpose.

“It was a joke. I just never found the right timing to tell you. The fact that I’m the guild master and not just a normal employee won’t change our relationship, right?”
“Myelene-san, are you older than you look?”

The young Mylene-san was always sitting at the counter, so I never expected her to be the guild master. The only thing that I could think was that she had a deceptive appearance, just like Eleanora.

“That’s rude. I’m in my twenties, just like my appearance suggests.”

This…wasn’t this age range too big?

Personally, I really thought that there was a big difference between 20 and 29. Well, if she didn't want to say it, she was probably in the latter half.
Though, if Mylene-san really was the guild master, then that explained a lot of things. For example, Mylene-san's judgment had been really helpful when selling the eggs. There was no way that a normal employee could have made my desire to not sell eggs to the Feudal Lord a reality.

"I don't care whether you are in your 20s, 30s or 40s. Staying here like this is not going to help us. We should go."
"W, Wait! The difference between your 20s and 30s is like the difference between Heaven and Earth! And what's with the 40s!!! You'll be hated if you say that to a lady, you know!"
"It's okay. Unlike a certain someone, I am already married and have children."

He had such a beautiful wife and young daughters that he was probably in the winner camp. The only problem was that he didn't have a male successor. It was possible that I just didn't know about it, though. I hadn't known about Shia before going to the capital either.

"Are you looking for a fight?"
"I just stated the truth."

The air between the two of them turned dangerous.
Were they possibly like a dog and a cat?
I didn't know which one was which, but…more importantly.

"Mylene-san, you will come to Mireera?"
"Of course. There is the Commerce Guild's scandal, and I also want to see if there really is a tunnel, because if there is, we could start trading with Mireera. Considering all of that, there will be many things that can't be dealt with if I, the Guild Master, am not there. Also, the most important part is that I will be able to ride the famous bears. I would be going even if I had to skip work for it."

She always seemed to be working in the Commerce Guild, but was she doing her job as a Guild Master properly?

"You go back and do your job!"
"As I said, going to Mireera is my job!"

She managed to silence Cliff with that sound argument.

“Then, Yuna-chan, we should go and see the rumored bears.”

Mylene-san put her hand on my shoulder and started walking.
Cliff followed us with an exasperated expression.
When we arrived at the gate, the guard there was looking our way, confused by the strange combination. Now that I thought about it, seeing the Guild Master and the Feudal Lord together would surprise anyone. I prayed that I wasn’t included in this surprising party.
When we left the town, I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear.

“So these are the famous bears.”

I asked Cliff to ride Swaying Bear, and Mylene-san to ride Hugging Bear with me.
Mylene-san approached Hugging Bear.

“Hugging Bear is the white one, right?”

She stroked Hugging Bear’s neck, and he seemed to enjoy it.

“Yes, the white one is Hugging Bear. The black one is Swaying Bear.”
“Fufu, those names are really just like you, Yuna-chan.”
“What do you mean by that?”
“I mean that, just like their appearances, those names are really cute.”

Mylene-san began smiling, as if hiding something from me.
I didn’t really know if the names ‘Swaying Bear’ and ‘Hugging Bear’ were cute, but I was already attached to those names. If I had a better naming sense, I might have found better ones, but I now thought that it was great that I had named them this way.
The two people tried to get onto each of the bears.

“Yuna-chan, how do you ride them?”

Unlike normal horses, the bears had no saddles.
Hugging Bear crouched down to make it easier for us to get on. I hopped on first, and Mylene-san got on behind me.

“There is no saddle, but it’s really comfortable.”

“It stays comfortable, even when you ride for a long period of time.”

At first, I thought it was because I had my Bear Suit, but when I went to the capital with Fina and Noa, the two of them said that it didn’t hurt at all. When I heard that, I finally understood that it was because of the bears’ abilities.

After all of us got on, the bears headed towards the tunnel.
They started off at a light run.

“They are running smoothly.”

Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear ran side by side.

“They are fast and comfortable. Carriages are really slow after all.”
“These children will feel sad if you compare them to carriages.”

The Bears sped up, and we arrived at the foot of the Erezento mountain range at noon.

“I think it’s around here.”

We arrived at the place where I had dug the tunnel.
Based on the map, it should be around here.

“Did you get lost?”

Cliff asked.
While I was looking around, Hugging Bear began walking on his own accord.

“Hugging Bear?”

Hugging Bear seemed to be saying ‘Leave it to me!’.
After a few minutes, he found the tunnel, which had been hidden by trees.

“Even though there are so many trees around, this is the only place that doesn’t have any, huh.”
“That’s because I cleared them out when I decided to sleep here, since they were in the way.”

Since the area had already been cleared, we decided to take a break.

“Still, we arrived really fast, thanks to the bears.”
“As a merchant, I would really like to have them.”
“I bet the adventurers would like them as well.”

The two of them were giving their impressions of the bears while drinking Oren juice. Afterwards, they stood in the front of the tunnel.

“So this is the tunnel that Yuna made.”

The big tunnel was right in front of them.

“It’s big. It could just barely fit two carriages at once.”
“It won’t be possible to have two if a big carriage wants to go through.”
“Then you should just separate it by days. If you do that, there won’t be any accidents inside.”
“You are right. In any case, we will need someone to manage it.”
“And we will have to set a tax.”
“How much would be appropriate?”
“Normally, that would be decided by the construction cost of the tunnel, but…”

The two of them were looking at me.

“You will be asking for money?”
“Of course. What kind of an idiot would perform a service for free? It will cost money to maintain, and we will have to hire soldiers and adventurers to guard the place.”
“If we don’t, bandits or monsters could enter it, and people would have no way to escape.”

They were right. If we left it as it was, monsters could go inside. They would have to make a stationary post to prevent that from happening, one at each entrance. Since they would need to fund it, a tax was also necessary.

“We will also have to place magic stones to light up the tunnel.”
“That’s right. We will have to place light magic lines. That alone will cost a fortune.”

Magic lines, as the name stated, were lines that transferred magic power. They were similar to electrical lines on Earth. There were some inside the Bear House too. The

system was set so that, when you touched a magic stone on a wall, the magic line transferred the magic power and lit up the magic stone on the ceiling.

“We will also need wind magic lines.”
“It will be necessary because the tunnel is so long, huh. Well, before that, just how long is this tunnel? If it’s too long, we might need a rest area.”

The two of them started talking about the future of the tunnel on their own.
I didn’t mind being left out of it though, as long as seafood came to Crimonia. Still, it wasn’t that easy. It was better to let the experts to do their jobs. That was why I kept my mouth shut.

We decided to only take a short break, so we departed again.
I created a Bear Light and put it in front of us. When I moved, the light moved as well.

“Yuna, sorry, but can you move slowly? I want to confirm the condition and length of the tunnel.”

The bears slowed down to walk through the tunnel.

“It’s incredible that you made it by yourself.”
“If there were other provinces that wanted to dig tunnels, you would be really popular.”
“Couldn’t people who can use earth magic also make one?”
“You…you really don’t see how out of the ordinary you are, do you? You are correct, there may be people who could dig a tunnel, but doing it in a few days would be impossible for them. I already knew that your magic was beyond powerful, but now I can see that you have an absurd amount of the magic power as well.”

I didn’t tell them that I made it while wearing my White Bear Suit, which allowed me to restore magic power faster.

“But, we will have to report this tunnel to the capital if we want Mireera to join our province.”
“Then, they will naturally end up asking how the tunnel was made. “
“If you don’t talk about it, they won’t find out.”
“They will!”

Cliff shouted.

I really wanted him to stop shouting inside of the tunnel.

“I don’t think you have to worry. If I remember correctly, there shouldn’t be any tunnels in this kingdom.”
“I’m not sure what will happen if they learn how strong Yuna is, though. But, don’t worry, I will properly explain it to them.”

He said that I didn’t have to worry, but royalty had a higher position than nobles, didn’t they? It was impossible to not worry about it.

“You will have Eleanora to help you with this, so there shouldn’t be a problem.”

Eleanora-san… If I remembered correctly, she spoke casually with the King.
I really wanted to ask who Eleanora-san really was. She was the most mysterious person I had met since coming to this world.

“There doesn’t seem to be any dripping water.”

Cliff looked up at the ceiling.

“I made it so that the water would flow outside, so there won’t be any dripping water.”

I didn’t want it to become a limestone cavern, after all.

“It will be easier to manage then.”

We had advanced quite a bit, but we still couldn’t see the outside.
We were only a third of the way through.

“It would be really creepy if the light were to turn off here.”
“Yuna, are you okay with the light?”
“There’s no problem, even if it’s for a few more hours.”

If it disappeared, I just had to make a new one.

“It would be really difficult to put the light lines on the ceiling, so we will have to put them on the walls.”
“That will be better. Even if one side shuts down, there will still be light on the other side.”

We advanced as they talked, but I still couldn't see the end of the tunnel.

"It's long."
"Well, even though we are going straight under the mountain range, there's still a lot of distance, after all."
"Will we need a rest area?"
"I think that would be better than not having any."

I could feel them looking at me.

"Do you want me to make it?"
"You already made this much. Wouldn't it be okay to make just a little more? It would be better to make it halfway through, but we would have to make precise measurements for that."
"I don't know the exact distance, but I know where the halfway point is."

Thanks to the map, I roughly knew where the middle was.

"Really?"
"We are almost there."

I made Swaying Bear move faster while watching the map. By the way, even if I opened the map, the people of this world weren't able to see it. I realized that when I was with Fina.

"The halfway point is around here."
"You even know this kind of thing?"
"Well, it's just an estimate, so don't rely on it too much."
"It's okay, even if there's some measurement error. Can you make a wide opening around here, please?"

I used earth magic to dig out the wall as per Cliff's instructions.

"That's incredible. A hole is being made so easily."

After a while, I finished making a parking lot for multiple carriages.

“If we are in the middle, we don’t have to go slowly anymore. Yuna, sorry, but could you speed up the pace?”

I made the bears move faster, and we passed through the second half of the tunnel really quickly.

Chapter 98
Bear-san Goes Back To Mireera

When we got out of the tunnel, the sunset had already dyed the sea red.
A salty breeze drifted towards us, and we breathed fresh air.

“So pretty.”
“You’re right.”
“Thanks to the tunnel, Crimonia is now closer, so it would be great to spend holidays here.”
“I agree. Should I bring my daughter next time?”
“I really didn’t think that it was possible to get to the other side of the mountain in one day, though.”
“Going around the mountain is very time consuming, after all.”

We moved towards the city while having this exchange and watching the sun.
When we arrived at the gates, I saw the man who greeted me the first time I had arrived at this city.

“Bear Missy! You came back.”

The man happily rushed towards me.

“I wasn’t on duty when you left, so I was really sad when I couldn’t thank you, you know.”

Now that I thought about it, a different guard was by the gate when I left town, huh.

“Allow me to thank you again. Thank you for saving the city.”

The man thanked me. Somehow, it turned out to be really embarrassing.

“A lot of different people have thanked me, so you didn’t really need to say it. I received rice from all of you as well.”

What made me the happiest was the rice they had offered.

Though on second thought, preferring a material thing over verbal gratitude was a little…

“So it seems. I also brought the rice that I had at my house. There wasn’t much, though.”
“Is that so? Thank you very much. I will cherish it as I eat it.”

When I said that, the man seemed really happy.

“Sorry to interrupt you while you are talking, but could you please let us enter now?”

Cliff interrupted our conversation.

“Sorry. Are you two missy’s acquaintances?”
“Yes, that is correct.”
“May I see your cards to confirm it?”

The man returned to his job, and asked them to hand over their cards.
Cliff and Mylene-san obediently presented them.
The man proceeded to look at the cards, and his face gradually changed.

“……Count and guild master.”

The man slowly handed the cards back and bowed.

“I’m deeply sorry. Please come inside.”
“You don’t have to worry about it. No need to be so polite.”
“That’s right. You don’t have to bow in front of a man like him.”

Mylene-san said that as if it didn’t concern her at all, but didn’t her card surprise him as well?
We entered the city, and since the sun had already set, it was becoming darker and darker.
As expected, talking today would be impossible.

“It’s already late, but what do you want to do? If you want to go to the inn, I can show you the way.”
“No. I want to see the Adventurer’s Guild’s master first.”

“You’re right. Without the Mayor, it’s our duty to go and meet the three elected elders. It’s already late, though. That’s why it would be better to talk to the guild master, who knows the whole story.”

Their opinions matched and we went to the Adventurer’s Guild.
The people we met on the way to the guild all greeted me.

“You’re really popular.”
“Now that I think about it, you killed the Kraken, so it’s normal for you to be appreciated.”
“It’s not only that, right? I’m sure that a part of it comes from the cute clothes she’s wearing.”

My Bear clothes?
I wouldn’t be happy if I were to become known because of this suit.
I was really worried that at some point that, just as someone could say ‘This ribbon is her real form’ or ‘Those glasses are her real form’, they would start saying ‘This suit is her real form’.
I could already imagine how depressed I would be if the citizens just ignored me if I came to the city without wearing the suit in the future.
I smiled when I realized what I was thinking.
I had always thought that it was a pain when they started talking to me, but now, I also thought that I would be sad if they didn’t talk to me. Was this…the aftereffect of being alone for a long time, maybe?
For now, I just prayed that they didn’t think Me = The Bear Suit. I was sure that it wasn’t the case.

When we arrived at the Adventurer’s Guild, we saw the employees cleaning. We couldn’t see any adventurers. Due to the Commerce Guild’s scandal, some were in jail, and a lot of the others had decided to leave the city because they felt guilty.
After we entered the guild, one of the employees noticed us.

“Yuna-san.”

After he said that, everybody in the guild reacted.

“Is Atora-san here?”
“Yes, I will call her immediately.”

The employee jogged into the back room.
The back door opened loudly and Atora-san came out.
As always, she was wearing clothes that emphasized her breasts.

“Yuna! You are back already?”
“Atora-san, I have returned.”
“So, how was it? What did the Feudal Lord from Crimonia say?”

She asked. Did she not see Cliff and Mylene-san?

“Atora-san, please calm down. I will explain.”
“Ah, sorry about that. Okay, who are these two people?”

She seemed to have finally noticed the two of them.

“This man here is Crimonia’s Feudal Lord, Cliff…Fo…Fo…some noble name.”
“You, you don’t even remember people’s names? If you introduced other nobles like that, you wouldn’t get out of it unscathed, you know. It’s okay with me, though.”
“Then what’s the problem?”

You see, his name was really long! I couldn’t remember all of it!
Besides, I had never tried saying it.

“You…”

Cliff let out a sigh with an amazed expression.
Then, Cliff looked at Atora-san.

“I am the Feudal Lord of Crimonia, Cliff Foshurose. We have just arrived, but even though it was late, we decided to come here to say our greetings.”

Cliff made his self-introduction politely.

“Feudal Lord of Crimonia…”

Atora-san looked at Cliff in a daze.

“This woman here is Crimonia’s Commerce Guild’s master, Mylene-san.”
“Commerce Guild’s master…”

She then looked at Mylene-san.

“I am the one in charge of Crimonia’s Commerce Guild. It seems that one of our people was responsible for a really big scandal over here, and I am really sorry about that.”

After Atora-san heared Mylene-san’s greeting, she returned to her usual self.

“I, I am this city’s Adventurer’s Guild’s master, Atora. Thank you very much for coming here from so far away.”
“Far away?”
“From far away?”

The two of them seemed to want to say something. When Atora-san saw the two of them like that, she tilted her head.

“As Cliff-sama said, it’s already late today, so could we talk tomorrow?”
“Yes, of course.”
“So, where will you be staying today?”

Atora-san asked as if it was a difficult thing to say.

“Normally, I would let you stay at the best place in the city, the mayor’s mansion, but we have no mayor now and…that place is not fit to house people…”
“You don’t have to worry about it. It’s my fault for coming here without any prior arrangements. The inn will be sufficient.”
“Yes, you don’t have to mind it.”

When the two of them said that, Atora-san bowed twice.

“Thank you very much. I will ask some of our employees to meet you tomorrow morning, so please have a good rest tonight. Of course, we will pay the inn fees, so don’t worry about it.”

Atora-san called Sei and asked him to escort us to the inn.

“I already know where the inn is, so I don’t really need a guide, though.”

“It’s to explain things to Deiga-san. These two are noble visitors. Although we need to be very polite around them, I don’t really want to cause a fuss, so I will keep the fact that he is a noble a secret. Is that okay with you as well, Cliff-sama?”
“Yes, I don’t mind. I can just be Yuna’s friend.”
“Thank you very much. Then, I will arrange things as we have previously discussed.”

Sei, who was next to Atora-san, bowed.

“By the way, Atora-san, the way you are speaking is strange, don’t you think?”
“Yuna! Who do you think this person is?”
“Crimonia’s Feudal Lord?”
“Can’t you understand it if you know that?”
“You don’t have to be so polite with Cliff, though.”
“You… That’s the normal attitude in front of nobles, you know. You’re the one who’s strange. Well, if you are too humble to me, that will trouble me. You don’t have to act like Yuna does, but it would be better if you just spoke normally.”
“Yes, I will do my best. Then, how many people came with you?”
“There’s none.”
“……”

Atora-san’s eyes opened wide.
Thinking about it now was a bit late, but a noble normally had guards, right?

“Yuna’s with me, so I didn’t need an escort.”

Was it possible that he trusted me?

“Really?”
“Yes, and we arrived on Yuna’s bears. From what I had read in the letter, I thought it would be best to come here quickly, so I decided to take the quickest way.”
“Th, thank you very much.”

Atora-san seemed to be deeply moved. Did she have that kind of personality?
Since Atora-san was using words that weren’t like her, I felt uncomfortable.

“Then, just to be safe, I will provide you some guards from the guild…”
“Atora-san, it’s okay. My bears and I are here, after all.”
“…But….”

“Couldn’t you arrange for guards from tomorrow onwards, during the times when I won’t be with them?”
“……Understood. I will count on you for tonight then.”
“As long as they are in the inn, I, or rather the bears, will guarantee their safety.”

Even if I was in a deep sleep, the bears would be there, so it was safe.
Since it was already late, we ended the conversation there and left the guild.

“Missy! You are back?”
“I’m back. Starting today, I will be in your care for some more time.”
“Oh, you can stay for as long as you want.”

Sei interrupted our conversation and explained the details.

“I didn’t plan on asking for payment in the first place. Missy’s friends are always welcome! We also have a lot of vacant rooms. You can stay here for as long as you want.”
“Ah, is it okay to trust us so much? Bad people would love to stay here all the time.”

Mylene-san said that as if she was teasing him.

“There’s no way Missy’s acquaintances would do such a thing. If there was someone like that, it would be an impostor who’s using her name without her knowing.”
“Yuna-chan, you are highly trusted, huh.”
“I don’t trust strangers so easily, but it’s different with Missy. That’s something all of the people from this city would say.”

What was that, that unfaltering, complete trust?
It was really scary. Did I do something that important?
I thought for a little. Yea, I did.
I gave them food. I subjugated the bandits. I released the prisoners. I indirectly revealed the Commerce Guild’s scheme. I killed the Kraken. On top of that, I gave them the Kraken’s materials. When I thought about it, it really couldn’t be helped that they trusted me.
Now I had to add the tunnel to the list as well. We couldn’t make that a secret, could we?

“That’s why, if it’s something that comes from Missy’s mouth, it’s worthy of our trust.”

Why did it sound like the start of a cult, though?
I didn't plan for it to be like that.

"It was just because I wanted to do it, so don't mind it too much. I beg you, please don't mind it."

I said strongly.
I absolutely had to stop it now.

"But…"
"If you want to thank me, could you just accept a little favor of mine?"
"What is it? This little favor?"
"I will tell you in just a bit, so wait a little."
"Understood. If it's something I can do, I will listen."

Was it really okay? Just promising without considering like that.
I am going to take your daughter!
I already had her permission, the only thing I lacked was the approval of her guardian, Deiga-san.

"Then, Missy's friends, I will make you a feast, so eat till your bellies are full."

Deiga-san placed his seafood meal on the table, and the two of them ate all they wanted.
We all went to our own rooms, and in anticipation of tomorrow, we decided to just go to sleep.
I didn't forget to summon Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear as guards.

"Please warn me if there are any suspicious people approaching Cliff or Mylene-san's rooms."

I asked Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear while patting their heads.
They answered me with a soft 『Kuun』.

Chapter 99
Bear-san Is An Unwanted Child?

The next morning, after we had finished eating breakfast, Cliff and Mylene-san began discussing plans for the future in the dining room on the first floor.

"Then, we will just transfer a portion of the tunnel's tax revenue to Yuna's card, through the guild."
"Procuring the magic lines will be a problem as well."
"The light and wind magic lines, huh. Couldn't the guild do something about it?"
"We could, but I'm afraid that the market prices might collapse if we did."
"Then, as we thought, the best option would be to ask for the lines the capital has in stock?"
"I believe that would be for the best."
"Also, since it's something so important, we can't really report it with just a letter."
"You will be able to see your wife, so isn't that good for you?"
"It would be, if I didn't have any work to do. Right now, I have work to do, you know. On top of that, I have to take care of the business with the tunnel and this city becoming our territory, so my workload has increased even more. When I think about how I will have to go to the capital while I'm this busy, I just become depressed."

I pretended like I hadn't heard anything and drank my Oren juice.
Adventurers had it easy, didn't they. They ate when they wanted to and slept when they felt like it. It was a great job to have.
When I read fantasy manga and novels, I was really impressed that there were actually people who did something as troublesome as territory management. Personally, I couldn't do that. I thought that the protagonists who did it were really incredible.
Well, I did prefer to take it slow, rather than play an active role like those protagonists, though.
I drank my juice next to the two busy people, as if this was somebody else's problem, feeling happy with this way of life.
Ah, I am so happy that I am an adventurer.
While I was thinking about such things, their conversation continued.

"Also, I thought about the passage through the tunnel. We don't really have to make it a one way passage all the time. We have enough space to fit two carriages side by side.

Wouldn't it be possible to designate part of it to allow horses and people on foot to go through?"
"Some idiots might run or gallop through, you know. That would be dangerous."
"Then, should we install fences?"
"We won't have enough people to do that."
"You're right. For now, we should just make it a one way passage and see how it works."
"That would be better for now. It won't be too late to implement it after we have a better grasp on the volume of traffic."

These two were discussing this deeply and with zeal again. It had nothing to do with a normal person like me, so I just stared into space as I listened to them.
Yes, Feudal Lord and guild master were both really difficult jobs.
Sei arrived while the two were conversing.

"Good morning, everyone. Would it be possible for you to come to the Adventurer's Guild with me?"

The two of them had no issues with it, so they accepted.
Then, what should I do while they're all talking together?
Cliff called out to me when he saw that I hadn't stood up.

"Yuna, what're you doing? We're leaving."
"I'm going as well?"
"Why are you even asking such an obvious thing?"

He said, looking amazed.

"You are going to have a talk between the city leaders, right?"
"That's right."
"You don't need me then."
"What are you saying? You are the central figure. You can't just not be there."

Huh?
When had I become the central figure?

"Mylene-san?"

I looked at Mylene-san for help.

“You’re the only one among us who knows about the city, so we need you. Even though I doubt that they will lie, we will still need your knowledge of the city, so you need to come.”
“In negotiations, people will always say things that are advantageous for them, while avoiding things that will put them in a pickle. If you’re there, however, they will have more trouble doing so.”

Was that so?
They didn’t seem to be people who would do those kind of things, though. Well, Cliff and Mylene-san didn’t really know about the residents’ personalities, so it couldn’t be helped.
I couldn’t find a reason to refuse, so I reluctantly went with them.

When we arrived at the Adventurer’s Guild, we were brought to the same room as last time.
When we entered the room, Atora-san and the three old men were already seated.
One of my acquaintances was also next to them. The decent Commerce Guild employee that Damon-san had introduced to me.
Atora-san prompted us to sit down.

“We’re really thankful that you made this trip to Mireera.”

Atora-san stood up from her seat and gave her thanks.

“We didn’t really think that Crimonia’s Feudal Lord would come here personally.”
“It was a request from this one, after all.”

Cliff looked towards me.
I didn’t remember making a request, though. I just gave him the letter and explained everything, that was it.

“She did a really absurd thing for us, and on top of that, she did another really irrational thing. After thinking about what will happen going forward, I cannot leave matters to my subordinates.”
“I see. She has saved us a number of times as well.”
“Same here.”

Why was he saying it as if he was complaining?

“Then, before we start talking, let’s introduce ourselves. I am Atora, and I work as the guild master of the Adventurer’s Guild. I am currently playing a supportive role in the city.”

Next, the three elders introduced themselves.
Finally, Jeremo-san introduced himself as well.

“I’m… I am Jeremo, an employee at the Commerce Guild. I don’t know why I have been called here, though?”
“You are the Commerce Guild’s representative.”
“Representative?”
“That’s right. From now on, we want you to listen to the instructions of this person, the guild master of Crimonia’s Commerce Guild, and work under her.”

One of the elders said.

“Why did you choose me?”
“Because you are kind, even though you’re inexperienced.”
“You stole fish and distributed it to families that needed it, right?”
“It was found out, huh.”
“Of course, it’s easy to figure out when you can smell roasted fish from homes that can’t afford it.”
“Still, it wasn’t necessarily me who did it, right?”
“Don’t underestimate our information network. We know when something like that happens.”
“Then, were you turning a blind eye to me?”
“We also felt guilty for only allowing rich people to get food.”
“That’s why we were protecting you from the shadows.”
“Is that so?”
“That’s also why we asked for you, who thinks of the residents so much, to be the representative of the Commerce Guild.”
“As you have just heard, we would like you to give instructions to this Commerce Guild employee.”

The elderly men bowed to Cliff and Mylene-san.

“I understand. I will put him to good use.”

Jeremo-san looked defeated after hearing those words.
Once their side had finished making self-introductions, Mylene-san began her own.

“I am working as Crimonia’s Commerce Guild’s master. My name is Mylene. I believe that we will have a lot to do, so I am counting on you.”
“I will do my best.”

Jeremo-san answered.

“Then, I am the last one, right?”

Cliff made his introduction after he said that.
Huh? Last?
What about my introduction?
Was it possible that I was an unwanted child?
Well, they all knew me, though.

“I am Crimonia’s Feudal Lord, Cliff Foshuroze. Even so, I would like it if you didn’t mind the way you speak with me. I have learned not to mind that sort of thing.”

At that moment, Cliff looked towards me.
Why?

“Now then, we don’t have a lot of time, so we should talk about the urgent issues.”
“I read the letter, but do you really want to be part of our territory?”
“Yes. We would like to receive your protection in return. We want you to help us if something like the previous incident were to happen again.”
“The Kraken, huh.”
“Yes.”
“I will say it now. It’s not so easy to kill a Kraken. This bear is simply abnormal.”

Cliff pointed his finger at me.
Hadn’t anyone told him that he shouldn’t point at people?

“Yes, we already know that. I don’t think a second Kraken will appear. If one does, we want you to at least promise to support us with food and other supplies.”
“Food, huh. Are you saying this even though you know the distance between Crimonia and this city?”
“That’s….”

"…"

They all sank into silence.
They were all thinking about the distance between Crimonia and Mireera, and had concluded that it was far.
Bringing food would take time and effort.

"That was a joke."

Cliff burst into laughter. Mylene-san was laughing as well.
Their laughter left Atora-san and the three elders bewildered.

"Cliff-sama?"
"I understand the food issue. If this city ever has a food shortage, we will help you. Though, if our city also has a food shortage, I can't make any definitive promises. Is that okay?"
"Yes, of course. This city will have food shortages only when we can't go out to the sea. I don't think that would happen at the same time that Crimonia has a food shortage."
"You're right. I think so as well. That's why, if Crimonia has a food shortage, I will make you help us in return."
"Agreed."
"The only problem is figuring out how to transport everything."
"There's no problem on that front, thanks to this bear."

Cliff looked at me.
After Cliff said that, everyone aside from Mylene-san and I seemed to be confused.

"Yuna, for the sake of this city, made a tunnel that leads to Crimonia."
"Wait…"

I tried to cut into the conversation.

"Is that true!?"
"Yes, we used the tunnel to come here."
"Hmm, you're not telling a joke, right?"
"When you hear it, you can only think of it as a joke, but it's true, you know. With a fast horse, you could get there in two or three days. Of course, I don't know how much time a carriage would take, but you should be able to arrive within a few days."
"……"

“I would like to go to the tunnel to discuss its practical use, but would that be okay with you?”
“Yes, of course. We also want to see this tunnel.”

After that, they signed the contract papers.
Hmm, was I really needed?

“After that, I also want to talk about the election of this city’s representative. I want to have a talk with him when he’s elected. Of course, I don’t mind if the representative is one of the people here.”
“Are you talking about a mayor?”
“That’s right. If there is no leader, we can’t proceed with important discussions.”
“Understood. We will choose a mayor shortly.”
“That’s all I have to say for now.”

After Cliff said what he wanted to say, it was Mylene-san’s turn.

“We will talk about the Commerce Guild’s issue now. I apologize that one of our own did something terrible to you all. I have already read Atora-san’s report. Something so terrible should never have happened. The Commerce Guild won’t be protecting him. Crimonia’s Commerce Guild will also subject him to punishment.”
“Excuse me, what will be his punishment?”
“He will be put to death, of course. As the contract we signed before says, this city is now a part of my territory. If his punishment hasn’t been decided yet, it would be normal for him to be punished by Crimonia’s laws. He did as he pleased with my city. My important residents have been killed. A man like that will certainly be executed. Above all, he would be useless even if we let him live. If we execute him, we will relieve a lot of grief. That’s why, it is best if he dies.”

The grief Cliff was talking about was surely that of the people who had lost someone. Husbands, wives, sons, daughters, relatives, close friends, grandfathers, grandmothers…there were probably many people cursing him.

“We will execute him with poison, in the central plaza of this city. Call everybody who wants to see it, then I will have them forget about this incident.”
“Then, the bandits?”
“Let’s see. We will sentence them based on the gathered information. The ones who have killed or touched the women will be executed as well. The others will work at the mines.”

The people behind this incident had been marked for execution with just a word from Cliff.
Nobody wanted to interfere with this decision.
Those elders were ordinary people. Even if the bandits were a really horrible bunch, the elders didn't want to dirty their hands, I bet.
The fact that Cliff could make a decision like that really showed that he was someone with the ability to stand above other people.
Well, if it was during a fight, I could kill them as well, but if I was asked to execute non-resisting villains, I would have a hard time agreeing on the spot.
I thought that Cliff was incredible because he could do it.

"If there are any relatives who have complaints, you just have to mention my name!"
"Understood. Thank you very much for everything, Cliff-sama."
"I don't need any thanks. I do it because it is my job, that's all."
"We will talk about the future of the Commerce Guild next."

At those words, Jeremo was filled with nervousness.

"I want to ask you all something. Is Jeremo someone who is serious about his job? Someone who can do his job properly? I would also like to know more about his personality."

When the elders heard all of those questions, they all tilted their heads for a moment, but answered quickly.

"Jeremo may be inexperienced, but he's a man who does his job."
"I saw him skip work sometimes, but the residents love him."
"Also, during this terrible month, he stole fish and distributed it to the poor families."
"Let me think. He's the type who will do his job properly, even though he's grumbling about it all the time."

Mylene-san responded after she had heard everyone's comments.

"Then, I will have you become the guild master of the Commerce Guild in this city."
"Me…My humble self becoming the guild master?"
"Yes, in unstable times like this, it's best to have someone who's well liked by the people. The residents will lend such a person a helping hand. If a stranger like me became the guild master, they wouldn't do anything for me."

“Still, me becoming the guild master is…”
“There won’t be a problem. I will dispatch someone to help you. You will just have to slowly learn how to become a guild master.”
“Jeremo, I beg of you as well. You don’t know how much your actions have helped us during this period…”
“And if you want to skip work, you just have to give all of the work to your subordinates, right?”
“Jeremo, I feel the same as well.”

The elders bowed.
It wasn’t good to ditch your job, you know!

“I understand. Please raise your heads. If you’re really okay with me, I will accept.”

Jeremo-san puffed up his chest as he accepted the job.
Mylene-san smiled at his answer.
I saw Jeremo-san’s cheeks turn red, and it most likely wasn’t just my imagination.

“Then, the final topic is the tunnel, right?”
“Before that, should we have a meal?”

Atora-san checked the time.
It was indeed time for lunch.

“You’re right. I want to go to the tunnel after we eat. Is that okay?”

Nobody refused Cliff’s idea.

Chapter 100
Bear-san Makes A Stone Statue

We ate the meal that Atora-san prepared.
It was a simple fish meal, but Cliff didn't complain. It was funny, seeing Atora-san's anxious face as she watched him eat it.

"I prepared a carriage outside, so we should head towards the tunnel."

She said after we finished eating.
It seemed that she had prepared everything while we were eating.
We went outside, where a roofed carriage waited for us.

"Cliff-sama, Mylene-san, it may be small, but please get on."

She was right. It was small compared to the carriage Gran-san used at the capital.
However, there were no nobles in Mireera, and preparing this carriage was probably the best they could do.
Cliff, who understood that, wouldn't complain.

"I don't mind, so don't worry about it."

The carriage could seat three people on each side, opposite of each other.
Cliff, Mylene-san, Atora-san, and the three elders.
Jeremo-san headed for the coach seat.
So, where would I be?
Perhaps, the roof?
That wasn't the case, as it seemed that Atora-san and Jeremo-san would both sit in the coach seat.
With Jeremo-san's lead, the carriage started to move forward.

"Missy, thank you very much."

Grandpa Kuro, who was sitting in front of me, stated his gratitude.

"You brought the Feudal Lord of Crimonia from so far away."
"We don't have enough words to express our thanks to you, Missy."

“Not to mention, you made a tunnel for our sake.”

The three elders gave their thanks.
I felt really uncomfortable when they said it straightforwardly like that.

“I just made the tunnel on a whim, so you don’t have to mind it that much.”
“Are you saying that it was something you did on a whim? You… People who work in that field of expertise would be angry if they heard that.”

Cliff, who was sitting next to me, retorted.
I said that I did it on a whim, but I made it carefully. Still, it was true that I got really fed up with the monotonous task halfway through, so I started humming while working.
The only things that I really thought about while making it were the difference in height, the strength of the walls, and the flow of groundwater. I wanted to make it so that two carriages could fit through at the same time, of course, but amusingly, I forgot that carriages could differ in size.

The carriage slowly rattled onward, and we arrived near the tunnel.
Cliff stopped the carriage and we got out.

“We will walk from here on.”

For some unknown reason, Cliff took the lead.
Even though only three of us knew the place, it wasn’t okay for a noble to take the lead inside a forest, right!?
Well, just in case, I used detection magic to check for monsters and humans along the way.
The tunnel wasn’t too far from the road, though.
When we arrived at the tunnel, Atora-san took a deep breath.

“This tunnel goes to Crimonia?”

Atora-san asked as she peeked inside the tunnel.

“To be precise, it leads to a road that takes you to Crimonia.”
“It’s pitch black.”
“We plan on placing light and wind magic lines inside. We will be the ones paying for it, of course, so don’t worry about it.”

The moment Cliff spoke about the magic lines, the faces of the five representatives from Mireera darkened. Cliff noticed that and reassured them.

"Is that really okay? Of course, if you asked us to pay for it, the city doesn't have enough right now, but…"
"We will be paying for it because we will be asking for a passage fee, so don't worry."
"A passage fee, you say?"
"Seafood can be brought to Crimonia through this tunnel, and some people will also buy things and take them back to Mireera. People will go to see the sea as well. The profit will increase if more people pass through."
"Going to see the sea, you say?"

It seemed that the residents of Mireera didn't really understand why people would want to see the sea.
Well, people who lived at sightseeing places normally wouldn't understand people who came from far away to see these places.

"The people who were born and raised in this place might not understand it, but…for people who have never seen the sea before, just seeing it is worth it."
"Is that so?"

The elders tilted their heads, seemingly unconvinced.

"Don't you want to see Crimonia?"
"I want to."
"That's…"
"I would like to go there."
"It's the same thing. That's why you should prepare, since a lot of people will be visiting Mireera. They may change this calm city into a noisy one. Some rowdy people may also be coming. In return for everything you will receive, you should also be prepared to lose some things. That's why I will do my best, so you won't regret choosing me, but you will have to do your best for the city as well."
"Cliff-sama…"
"When this tunnel is finished, people will come. During the construction, you should increase the number of soldiers and hire adventurers to strengthen the security of the city. I will also lend you some people, of course."
"Will there really be that many people?"

“There will be! I will advertise it, after all. I would be troubled if nobody was using the tunnel, you see.”

The elders shook their heads in disbelief.
I voted for Cliff’s idea as well.
I made this tunnel on a whim, but I just realized that it might cause problems for the city.

“For now, I will tell you what I was thinking about yesterday. We will talk about what is or isn’t possible afterwards.”
“Okay.”

The elders nodded.
Would it be okay?
I became uneasy when I saw the elders acting like that.

“First, we will expand the city so it reaches this tunnel.”
“Expanding the city?”
“The city is not far from here. We will cut down all the trees around here and make a military station. If we do that, we will be able to inspect the people who come through the tunnel and the coastal road at the same time. Having two checkpoints near each other would be meaningless.”
“What will we make after we cut down all the trees? We aren’t really in need of plots of land for now, though?”
“How many inns do you have in the city? If dozens or even hundreds of carriages came, do you have any places to put them? Do you have enough places where visitors can eat food? Are there places to build houses if people wanted to build them? There are a lot of different ways to use those plots of land.”
“Will so many people really come?”

Grandpa Kuro, how many times had you asked that now?

“They will come! I am absolutely certain that the city will stop being peaceful. If you want to curse someone, then you should curse this person who made the tunnel.”

When he said that, he looked towards me.

“Still, personally, I don’t think it’s a bad thing when we consider the future.”

I was sure that inside Cliff's mind, the future of Crimonia and Mireera was already decided. I was also sure that the future he had pictured was one that would bring the two cities in a good direction.

"You are right."

Atora-san nodded.

"That's right. We have to change or we won't be able to move forward. Staying with our old way of thinking won't do."
"There are good and bad parts. We should be thankful that we even have the choice."

At that very moment, they all looked towards me.

"Now, we should talk about the passage inside the tunnel. Two carriages can fit at once, but we should make it one way only, and change sides daily. After all, if a big carriage were to pass through, it would block the whole tunnel. You will be in charge of this as well."

Atora-san and other representatives all nodded.

"Well, that's still in the far future. We have to place the magic lines before anything else can be done."

The talk continued.
Cliff stated his ideas, one after the other. With that, the discussion, or rather, Cliff's one-sided talk finished.
Then, Grandpa Kuro approached me, with the two other elders behind him.

"Missy, thank you very much. We can't repay you enough for this wonderful tunnel you made."
"You subjugated the bandits, killed the Kraken, and even made this marvelous tunnel for the sake of our city, we can't possibly be thankful enough."
"Missy, there is no way we can repay you for everything you did."

I made this tunnel so that seafood could be transported to where I was living, though… Well, I was happy, and the elders were happy. That was why, I believed there was no problem.

“You see, we have another favor to ask of you. Could you make one of your Bear Statues at the tunnel’s entrance?”
“A Bear Statue?”
“It’s okay if you just make the same statue you made when you killed the Kraken. With it, we won’t ever forget our gratitude towards you, who made the tunnel. I won’t live forever. Still, the future city mustn’t forget. That’s why, could you make it for us?”

Huh, that meant I had to make a bronze statue of my bear-self?
What was with this level of shame play…

“Yeah, that’s a good idea.”

Cliff, who must have been listening to our talk, said.
He was grinning. He probably found it really funny.

“I want you to make another Yuna (Bear) on the other side too. Ah, that’s wrong. A Bear (Yuna), please.”
(TL: Wordplay about how Yuna and Kuma sound similar)

It was because of my imagination that I heard the same thing, right?

“That’s a joke, right?”

The elders were making serious faces. It was not a mood where I was able to refuse.

“The tunnel will need a name as well. You made it, so I will give it a befitting name.”

Cliff grinned broadly.
I had a really bad feeling about this.

“……”
“What do you think about Bear Tunnel?”
“……”

I looked at him, shocked.

“That’s a good name.”
“Wonderful.”
“We can be grateful to the missy when going through it with this name.”

“It will be handed down through generations.”
“With that, the people from the town will never forget.”

Everyone wanted to keep the name.

“Stop it!!!”

I shouted, but nobody acknowledged me.

Thus, it was decided that I would make a statue of Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, the two that I considered my other half.
What was with this humiliation?!
I was so embarrassed that I wouldn’t be able to marry anymore. Though, it wasn’t like I planned to do it anyway.

Chapter 101
Bear-san Makes A Bear House At The Sea City

While enduring my shame, I finished making statues of Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear before we headed back to the city.

"Atora-san, any progress on the plot of land we talked about?"
"I found some good options, but I thought you should choose the one you like the most."
"You see, about that, I would like to make my house between the tunnel and the city like Cliff suggested, but would that be okay?"
"There's no problem, but will you make it on your own? If it's Yuna…I guess it is possible?"

Atora-san, who had watched me make the Bear Statues, seemed to think it was possible.

"You will wear yourself out if you try to put up with her lack of common sense, you know. She made a house that looks like a bear in less than one day in Crimonia. Everyone was making a fuss about it."
"A house that looks like a bear?"
"All the houses that this girl makes are Bear Houses. By the way, she made a Bear House in the capital too."
"She even has a Bear House in the capital!?"

I only made those houses so I could use the transfer gates, though.

"Cliff."
"Yes?"
"Is it fine to build my house anywhere? Though, if you have a plan, I will hear you out."
"I don't have one in particular. What I was talking about was just an example. I haven't decided where everything will be built yet, so you can build it wherever you want."

I had Cliff and Atora-san's permission, so I could make the Bear House now.
I decided not to go inside the carriage and saw them off instead.

When we finished, I muttered, 『Was there even a reason for me to accompany them…』
They said that they needed me because they didn't know each other's personalities.
Even Cliff said,

"With just your presence, we can trust the other party."

Grandpa Kuro also said,

"Because Missy seems to trust him, we believe we can also trust Cliff-sama."

I wasn't sure if I was really convinced by them.

Cliff would now go to the Adventurer's Guild with the elders, to talk about the tunnel some more. Mylene-san and Jeremo-san were going to the Commerce Guild to discuss the tunnel's future as well.
I was left here alone, and I went towards the place I had marked in order to make my home.
I wanted to build the Bear House right next to the sandy beach.
The view was beautiful there. A rooftop balcony would be a perfect place to take a nap under a parasol.
I was sure that you would even be able to clearly see the starry sky.
When I was in Japan, I didn't really think that I would one day be able to build a house near the sea.
In order to make the house, I first had to prepare the ground. I also wanted to make it on a somewhat elevated location, but I didn't know how much magic power I would need for that. Therefore, my first step was obvious. I made a simple changing room using earth magic and changed into the White Bear. I didn't plan on using a lot of magic power, but since I would only be using magic, I would end up being less worn out if I put on the White Bear. This had been proven by the tunnel construction.
After I changed, I began cutting down the trees that were in front of me and preparing the ground.
I cut the trees using wind magic and removed the roots using earth magic.
I cut off the tree branches and put the trees inside the Bear Box.
The width and the length of the clearing were both around one hundred meters.

"Did I make it a bit too big?"

I was a bit too excited and ended up clearing a place as wide as a school courtyard.

Well, I didn't really have to worry about it. It probably wouldn't be a problem, even if I didn't use all of the space.
I put down some more soil to raise the ground. I did it because I wanted to put the Bear House on top of a hill. The house would be a bit bigger than the one in Crimonia. This was because I planned to bring Morin-san, Karin-san, the children who worked at the shop, the children who took care of the cluckers, and the headmistress here when summer came. In that case, it would be better if they came to the Bear House instead of staying at the inn. This way, we wouldn't bother the people staying at the inn.

It was at that very moment that I realized something.
How many children were there at the orphanage?
I was under the impression that the number had increased recently.
If I remembered correctly, there had been around thirty of them at first. I remembered giving out about thirty wolf pelt, but I didn't remember the exact number. The number of children had been increasing little by little after that, and now, I had no idea how many children there were.
Still, it shouldn't have doubled, right?
It was at moments like these when the Bear Phone shined.
I used the Bear Phone and called Fina.

『Big Sis Yuna?』

"Fina, I want to ask you something. Is that okay?"

『Yes, no problem.』

"How many children are there at the orphanage?"

『How many children? If I am not wrong, there should be around sixty.』

What! Before I knew it, the number had doubled.
Well, the headmistress and Liz were taking care of them, but were they okay with just the two of them?
Not to mention, I had also asked Liz to manage the cluckers.
Hmm, we should have a talk about increasing the number of employees the next time I stop by.

"Thank you, Fina."

I hung up.
Sixty, huh. More than I had expected.
Even if I included the rooms on the second floor, I only had room for thirty. The thought of not bringing them to the sea crossed my mind for a moment, but then I remembered that the children were doing their best at work, so that wasn't possible.

I decided to make a big house, so I summoned Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear.
I made the foundation using earth magic and then, using wind magic, refined the trees I had cut down earlier. I then had Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear transport the refined wood and used them as pillars. I decided to secure them using earth magic.
I wasn't a skilled carpenter, after all.
My method of building this house was by using wind magic to process wood, having Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear transport the wood, and securing the wood with earth magic.
Once the foundations were stable, I just had to make it look like I imagined by using earth magic.
To make the image stronger, I made it look like a Bear.
I made all of the rooms by borrowing the strength of Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear.
(ED: I don't know why the author repeats…but it's in the raws.)

I made a big dining room, a kitchen, and a living room on the first floor. I made the bedrooms on the second floor. I made six bedrooms that could fit six people. I made triple bunk beds so that the rooms would have more space. With that, I could accommodate 36 people. It was probably okay if I split up the children into two groups, as long as the number of children didn't increase.
Still, knowing the headmistress's character, if she found a new orphan, she would pick them up for sure. I should prepare for when the number increased.
I made rooms for the guests and myself on the third floor. I made a big room for myself and added a balcony too. The sea that I was able to see from the balcony was beautiful.
I also didn't forget to make a transfer gate inside my room.
I made a Bear Bath on the fourth floor. I made it so that you could see the sea. I didn't forget to separate male and female baths either. After getting this far, I noticed something. This was not a house but a Ryokan, right?
I realized this late…
(TN: Ryokan: Japanese style inn)

The room layout was now complete, so I started installing magic stones. I used the magic lines to put light magic stones on every ceiling. I had to manually install the

magic stone, so it took some time. I also installed a water and fire magic stone in the bathroom, and adjusted the water temperature.
When I finished installing magic stones in every room, the sun was setting below the sea. The house was not totally complete, but I decided to go back to the inn.

When I returned to the city, the man at the entrance was acting as if he had seen something strange. I showed him my guild card and entered.
He wasn't the one I usually saw, so was this the first time that he had seen me?
As I was walking toward the inn, people were looking at me and acting as if something was strange. Nobody called out to me, though.
The state of the city was strange.
They would normally call out to me.
Had something happened?
I went back to the inn a bit faster.
When I arrived at the inn, Cliff was in the middle of having his meal.

"Cliff, the city is strange. Did something happen!?"
"Yeah, something did happened."

I knew it, something had happened.

"What happened!?"
"The Black Bear became a White Bear."

He said seriously.
I finally noticed my clothes.

"You also had a White Bear, huh."

I rushed towards my room and changed back to the Black Bear.
It was only a color change, but I became really embarrassed, as always.
It might have been because it wasn't something that I wore in front of other people, but it still made me really embarrassed.
The fact that the people around me had looked at me differently was also a factor. For the people in the city, it had already become 『me＝Black Bear』. Then, when they saw me in the White Bear Suit, they were all shocked.

I came back while acting like nothing had happened and asked Cliff.

“It’s only you? Where’s Mylene-san?”
“She isn’t back yet. How’s it going with your house?”
“Not bad. I will finish it by tomorrow.”
“A house isn’t something that’s made in one or two days, you know.”

Cliff said. I ignored his response and asked Deiga-san for a meal.

“So, how did it go for you, Cliff?”
“We will announce the tunnel tomorrow. At the same time, we will start recruiting people to flatten the ground. We have already decided on the salaries. After all, if the amount is too low, people won’t do it, and if it’s too much, it will be a financial burden.”

As expected, I didn’t understand anything at all. I didn’t even know the market prices in the first place, so it couldn’t be helped.

“But, we have the Kraken’s materials, so we are okay on that end.”
“Kraken?”
“You donated all of the Kraken’s materials to the city, right?”
“I didn’t need them, after all.”
“You… How much do you think that many materials could be traded for?”

He said while looking upset, but there was no way I could know that.

“The Kraken’s skin is waterproof, so you can use it as a water repellent, and there’s a lot of people who want it. The teeth can be sold for a high price. It’s worth a fortune with that alone, you know!”
“It’s okay if it can help the city’s revival.”
“You really are strange.”

He sighed, but still smiled.
As I ate the food that Deiga-san made, Mylene-san came back.

“Ah, Yuna-chan, you’re eating already. Cliff, will you start now?”
“I already finished.”
“Is that so? I am the last one?”

Mylene-san went to the back and asked Deiga-san for a meal.

“So, how did it go for you?”

“From the start, it was a Commerce Guild with only a few people, but on top of that, four of them have been arrested. There’s not enough people. When thinking about the future, it’s really short on human resources.”
“That’s the same thing for us. The mayor has not been decided yet, and we still have to choose the people who will be aiding him.”
“How about the assistants of the mayor who fled?”
“It seems that they were all from his family.”

Ah, it was the thing that happened a lot when it came to family businesses.
The first generation was excellent, but when the second or the third generation appeared, they became incompetent.

“Also, they took all their fortune with them when they fled.”
“Your are fine, since you have some people left, but I am at a point where I have to ask the three elders.”
“That’s terrible.”
“It would be ideal for me if Atora-san became the mayor, but if that happens, the Adventurer’s Guild would lose its head. We will have to talk about it at Crimonia’s Adventurer’s Guild.”
“I knew it, we will really need to bring some people from Crimonia quicky.”
“At the same time, we will also have to train a capable person.”

The two of them had it really rough.
I listened to their conversation as if it was someone else’s problem while I ate my meal.

“So, Cliff, I want to go back to Crimonia as quickly as possible, but when will you be able to go back?”
“I have something to do tomorrow, so I will go back the day after.”
“Then I will go then as well. If I don’t return to Crimonia, there will be no progress in the work I have to do, after all.”
“It’s about the same thing for me.”

It had been decided that we would go back the morning of the day after tomorrow.

Chapter 102
Bear-san Does Various Things Before Going Back

We were planning to go back tomorrow, so I decided to leave the inn early.
I headed towards the harbour to look for Ranya-san and Damon-san.
I arrived at the harbour, but no boats had returned yet.
Was I too early?

I had some questions about seafood. At first, I wanted to ask the elders, but I held back since they seemed really busy talking to Cliff.
As I was walking through the harbour while looking at the sea, I saw returning boats in the distance.

It seemed that I had good timing.
Big and small boats were all arriving at the harbour, one after the other.
As I watched the fishermen return, someone called out to me.

“Bear Missy, what are you doing at the harbour this early in the morning?”
“I am going back to Crimonia tomorrow, so I wanted to say goodbye to Ranya-san and Damon-san, and stock up on seafood as well.”
“Oh, you’re already going back…”

The fisherman seemed sad.

“I came to this city to buy some fish after all.”
“I see. Then, to show my gratitude, you can take as much fish as you want from the ones I have caught today.”

The fisherman who called out to me said something outrageous. The fishermen who heard him also started saying that I should take the fish they had caught.
I was happy, but was it really okay?

“Yuna-chan, what is going on?”

Ranya-san and Damon-san came up from behind the fishermen.

“I am going back to Crimonia tomorrow morning, so I came to say goodbye. I also came to stock up on seafood.”
“Then you can just take the ones I caught. I don’t need any money, of course. You have saved us a number of times, after all.”

The surroundings became noisy when Damon-san said that.

“Oi, Damon! You can’t say that after coming late. We want Bear Missy to take our fish as well. You aren’t the only one who has been saved, you know! We are all thankful that we can fish again. It’s a chance for us to repay her at least a little, you know!”
“That’s right! We don’t normally get to approach her, since the elders said that it would be an annoyance, you know!”

The elders gave out an order like that, huh.

“Still, we have been saved on the snowy mountain as well…”
“That’s irrelevant.”
“That’s right! You aren’t the only ones who are thankful!!”

Somehow, it became a major incident.
In this situation, I had to say something like 『Stop! Don’t fight over me!』, right?

“Hmm, you should all calm down. I will properly pay for the fish.”
“Bear Missy, we won’t take your money.”
“That’s right! If we do, it won’t count as repayment!”
“That’s no good. You have to keep your business ethics, or it will be hard for me to come and buy fish at a later date.”
“If it’s Bear Missy, I don’t mind if you don’t pay next time either.”
“I have a food shop in Crimonia, so I would have to come back to restock on a regular basis.”
“…Understood. Next time, you will pay, but please take it for free today.”
“Hmm, okay. I will take it for free this time then.”

We reached a compromise, and they settled down.

“Also, if something happens, just tell us. We will listen to any request from Bear Missy.”

The surrounding fishermen nodded.

“Then, can I ask you something?”
“What is it?”
“The feudal lord from Crimonia is discussing the future of the city with the elders right now, and I want all of you to accept it without making a commotion.”
“We wouldn’t go against something the elders decided on in the first place, and if even the Missy requests it, there’s no way we would. We accept your request.”

The fishermen nodded.
With that, when the discussions with Crimonia were revealed, things should advance a bit smoother.
I took the fish and left the harbour.
Of course, I had them bleed the fish before I put them away, or I couldn’t have put them inside the Bear Box.

It was a bit late for this to be said, but the fact that I couldn’t put the fish inside when they were still alive was quite inconvenient.
In the worst case scenario, you could freeze the fish or squid, but I had never heard about freezing shellfish. If I wanted to store those, I wouldn’t have any other choice but to open them and only take what was inside.
Well, if I could put living things inside the Bear Box, I would be able to do some really terrible things, so there was no helping it.

If I could put people inside, it would be like putting them to sleep and freezing their time. Also, I wouldn’t need to kill the monster, but rather just put them inside the box. If I ever wanted to kill them, I would just have to push them off from the top of a mountain. If I didn’t need the materials, I could just throw them inside a volcano.

If putting living things inside the Bear Box made their hearts stop, the Bear Box would become the best weapon for subjugating demons.
When thinking about it like that, it couldn’t be helped that the Bear Box was the way it was.

I left the harbour for my next destination, the Ryokan-style Bear House.
I continued from where I left off yesterday.
I decided to make a garden before I entered the house.
First, I made a space to park several carriages. Next, I prepared to make a storehouse and a stable.

After I decided on the size of the garden, I enclosed it with a two meter tall fence. I added an entrance door that I had made with the wood I refined using wind magic. Finally, in place of the Okinawa lions, I put Bear Cub statues at the top of the entrance. This would do for the outside.
I entered the house and resumed from where I left off yesterday. I started from the first floor. I used wind magic to make enough tables and chairs for around 40 people.

In the kitchen, I placed plates and cups I had made using earth and fire magic on the shelves. I didn't forget about forks and spoons, of course.
I finished with the first floor and moved onto the second floor. As for the things that I was missing, I would just have to go out to shop next time.

There were only beds on the second floor. Since there was nothing urgent, I moved onto the third floor. My room was on this floor. Just having a bed was more than enough for this room as well. Still, I made it larger because Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear would sleep here in there cub forms. I added some other things like tables and chairs for the other guest rooms.

I moved onto the fourth floor. The bath was on this floor. I haphazardly made some stools and buckets. I also made some shelves to hold clothes in the changing room.
It looked like a small public bath when I added those things.
Should I paint Mount Fuji on the walls as well?
(TL note: Okinawa lions statue is placed as a talisman against evil at entrances and on roofs).

I finished making the minimum necessities of this Ryokan-style Bear House. I made it look like a sprawled out bear, since the house had become long and narrow. The entrance was on the bear's side.

When seen from the front, it was clear that the bear was looking towards the sea.
The fifth Bear House had finally been completed.
The first one was in Crimonia, the second one was in a cave near the clucker village, the third one was the one I used for travel, and the fourth one was at the capital. Thus, this one was the fifth.

I made the houses look like Bears because that strengthened them. Also, it was because it strengthened the anti-crime system I set up using my magic. Only the people I gave permission to could enter the houses.

Even if I wasn't there, nobody would be able to infiltrate the house. Of course, even if they did manage to enter, there was nothing to steal.

I finished the Bear House, so I decided to go back to the inn. It was lunch time.
When I entered the inn, Deiga-san came up to me.

"Deiga-san, a meal please!"

I asked for food, and went to the table I always sat at during meals.

"Missy, is it real?"

Deiga-san slammed his hands on the table.

"What is?"

I was confused.
I didn't understand what he was talking about.

"All of it! I heard that you went to Crimonia and brought back the Feudal Lord and the Commerce Guild master! Even more, it seems that they were the two who stayed here."
"Oh, about that. Cliff is the Feudal Lord and Mylene-san is the Commerce Guild's master."
"Why didn't you tell me before! if I knew that they were a Feudal Lord and a guild master, I would have made more delicious meals…"
"Cliff and Mylene-san said that your meals were delicious, you know."
"Still, they said that they came here because the elders asked them for the sake of the city… If, because of my meals…"
"You don't have to worry about it. The meals were delicious enough."

I said to calm him down.

"Are you sure?"
"If it was bad, we wouldn't eat it."
"Then, it's okay… Well, I will make a delicious meal for you, Missy."

Deiga-san went to the kitchen, looking happy.
A delicious smell drifted from the kitchen.

Not too long after, warm, steaming meals were lined up on the table. They looked delicious.

“Leaving that aside, is it true that you dug a tunnel?”
“You heard?”
“Yeah, just before you came back.”

I didn’t know how it spread, but as expected, they knew it was me.

“Missy, who managed to kill the Kraken, is also able to make tunnels?”
“It was troublesome, but I made it for Anzu.”
“For Anzu?”
“I asked Anzu if she wanted to come to Crimonia before. I asked her to come and work at my shop.”
“In Crimonia…”
“She refused because it was too far. If I made a tunnel, it would be closer, right? That’s why I thought that she would agree to come if I made it.”
“To sum up, this means you made the tunnel, so you could bring Anzu to Crimonia, right?”
“At first, I just wanted a route to get seafood to Crimonia, but it’s true that I made it only after talking to Anzu. Incidentally, it also helped with Mireera joining Crimonia.”
“You say that you will make her work in Crimonia, but what will you do about the restaurant?”
“I will make it. I already have a bakery and a cafe, so I will just make Anzu’s shop next to it.”
“You say you will make it so easily… How much money do you think it will take to make?”
“I will cover everything, so don’t worry about it. I just want Anzu to cook. I will pay her, of course, and I will let her come home whenever she wants.”
“Missy, how do you benefit from giving such good terms?”
“I will be able to eat seafood cuisine that Anzu learned from you. That’s more than enough. Honestly, I would like you to come, but that would be impossible, right?”
“You aren’t joking, right?”

He asked seriously, so I answered seriously as well.

“I am not joking. Still, I won’t force her to come with me. If she doesn’t want to go, I will give up.”

If she made something unwillingly, it wouldn't be delicious. If I wanted it to be done, it had to be done willingly.

"…Anzu! Please come here for a second!"

He shouted towards the back room.

"What is it, dad?"

Anzu looked out from the back room.

"Do you want to go to Crimonia?"
"Even if I wanted to go there, it's not that easy. I would be sad being separated from you and mom."
"What if Crimonia was closer? A few days distance?"
"Then, I would like to go."

She said something that made me really happy.

"You see, it seems that this Missy made a tunnel that goes all the way to Crimonia."
"Dad, what are you saying? It's impossible to make a tunnel in a few days."

Anzu laughed and slapped Deiga-san's back.

"I think so as well. Still, the old men made an official announcement about it. Also, the one who made it is the Missy."
"Is it true?"
"Yeah, and it seems that she made it because she wanted you to come to Crimonia."
"You're joking, right?"
"That's not all of it. The first reason was that she wanted to eat seafood in Crimonia. The second one was that Atora-san and the elders wanted to become a part of Crimonia province. The third one was that if she made the tunnel, you would maybe come to Crimonia, since the distance would be shorter."
"I am included in those really important reasons?"
"That's more than enough of a reason, right?"
"…Dad"

Anzu looked at Deiga-san.

“Missy, are you really fine with my daughter? If you want, I can introduce you to other cooks.”
“If it doesn’t work out with Anzu, I would like you to introduce them to me, but I love your cuisine, so it would be the best if Anzu, who learned it from you, came.”
“…Anzu, decide this by yourself. It’s your own life. I know that you want your own restaurant.”
“D, dad…”
“You don’t have to rush. Common people can’t go through the tunnel for now, so even if I made you come, there would be no fish, so it would be meaningless, you see.”
“Okay, I understand. Let me think about it some more.”

Anzu returned to the back room.

“Ah, I didn’t think she would leave before getting married.”
“It’s not decided that she will be coming to Crimonia yet, right?”
“She will. That girl, she was hiding it, but she was really happy. Even if it’s just one of the reasons, you said that you made the tunnel for her cooking. That’s something to be happy about. If it was something that had been made for me, I would have happily gone there. That’s why my daughter will do the same.”
“Then, would you like for the entire family to come? I could make an inn, and you would be able to run it as a family.”

Yeah, that was a good idea.

“The invitation makes me happy, but I must refuse. I was born and raised here, after all. I plan on staying here until I die.”
“If Anzu goes to Crimonia, do come over to have some fun, okay? I will welcome you.”
“Yeah, I will come then.”

All that was left for me to do was to pray for Anzu to come.

Chapter 103
Bear-san goes back to Crimonia

TN: This should be next day morning leaving off from the previous chapter.

Anzu's issue was put on hold until the tunnel was finished.
Deiga-san told me that the chances were good, so I was looking forward to it.
I said goodbye to Anzu and Deiga-san, and left the inn. Atora-san, Jeremo-san, and the elders came to see me off.

"Atora-san, thank you for everything."
"What are you saying! I am the one who is really grateful! You can stay longer if you want, but that can't be helped, right? Yuna, we will always welcome you, so do come visit, okay?"
"I built my house here, so I will return. Also, please say goodbye to Blitz's party for me."

I thought that they would be back already, but that wasn't the case.
Well, we did say our goodbyes when they departed.

"Yes, I will. I'm sure they will be surprised when they come back."

I didn't know if they would believe it or not, though.
I looked for Jeremo-san and saw that he was speaking with Mylene-san. He noticed my gaze and approached me.

"Jeremo-san, I will be counting on you about the matter, okay?"
"It's a request from Missy. I will do everything I can to stock up."

I asked Jeremo-san to stock up on rice and soy sauce when a boat came from the country of Harmony and Peace. I also asked him to buy rare products you normally couldn't get your hands on. It was possible that I would get my hands on some incredible things.
I gave him money, of course.
I really wanted to go to the country of Harmony and Peace one day.

"Don't get angry if I stock up on useless things, okay?"

“I won’t get angry. You should only use money after consulting with me first, though.”
“I am a Commerce Guild employee, you know.”
“You’re more than just that, you’re the guild master!”
“Don’t say that. I really think it’s strange for me to become the guild master.”
“You have to get it together, so you won’t trouble us.”

Mylene-san, who was listening in on the conversation, encouraged him.

“Yes, I will do my best.”

Jeremo-san bowed.
He seemed to have some feelings for Mylene-san, but the other party was Mylene-san…
Well, I didn’t know much about love affairs, so I shouldn’t butt in.

“Also, if they tell you where the country of Harmony and Peace is, make sure to remember it.”

Yes, none of the residents knew the exact location of the country of Harmony and Peace.
Of course, there were no sea charts or compasses in the city. It seemed that they just did some trade with the ships that came every now and then.
If I knew when a ship would come, I would negotiate with them personally, but since it came irregularly, there was no helping it. Not to mention, there was also the Kraken issue. Jeremo-san told me it was possible that they wouldn’t come anymore.
If that turned out to be true, I would have to look for it myself.
Would the King know about it?
The previous guild master might know about it, but I didn’t want to visit someone who would be executed soon.
I put the case on hold, gave my goodbyes to the elders, and then we departed.

When we got out of the city, I summoned Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear, and we headed for the tunnel.
As we were moving towards the tunnel, we came across a fence that surrounded the Ryokan-style Bear House.

“When we went to see the tunnel yesterday, I was shocked to see that you had made something so big.”

It seemed that he had come across it when he went to see the tunnel with the residents.
They must have been really shocked when they saw it.

“I did say I would make it, didn’t I?”
“I didn’t think you would make something this big!”
“I had to make it big, because I want to bring the children from the orphanage here to visit.”
“Yuna-chan, let me stay at your place the next time I come here, okay?”

Mylene-san, who was riding Swaying Bear with me, said. I accepted, of course.
Our Bear riding party arrived at the tunnel, where the Bear Statues could be seen at the entrance. It was a bit late to say this, but strangers would think that they were normal bears, right? Nobody would link the Bear Statues to me, right? Hoping that wouldn’t be the case, I cast Bear Light and entered the tunnel.
The Bear Light illuminated the tunnel, and Hugging Bear and Swaying Bear ran towards the exit.
We encountered goblins inside, but I defeated them quickly, and we soon came out on the other side.

“We shouldn’t take too long or monsters will settle here, huh.”
“A big cave like this makes the perfect home for monsters, after all.”
“We will have to dispatch adventurers to kill the surrounding monsters first. If we don’t, the workers would be in danger.”
“We will have to investigate the monsters around here before dispatching the adventurers, right?”
“If we go to the Adventurer’s Guild, we should be able to learn about them.”

He was right, the Adventurer’s Guild should have information about monsters in the area.
I burned the goblin corpses so that the other monsters wouldn’t approach the tunnel.
Then, right when I wanted to head to Crimonia, Cliff stopped me.

“Wait. Yuna, you didn’t forget, right?”

He had a really unpleasant smile.
It was exactly because I didn’t forget, that I wanted to leave quickly, though…

“Make the statues before we head back to Crimonia.”

“Wouldn’t next time be good as well?”
“When is this next time? I bet you just don’t plan on making it.”
“That’s not…”

I had hoped he would have forgotten about it, but he remembered it…

“Your eyes are swimming, you know! It officially became the Bear Tunnel, so the Bear Statues are needed. Otherwise, I will just make a statue of you here, if you prefer.”
“Yuna-chan, you should give up. When Cliff is like this, he won’t let it pass. I also want to see Yuna-chan’s statue.”
“Mylene-san…”

I wasn’t able to escape when they put it like that.
Since I had no other choice, I got down from Swaying Bear and made Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear statues, one on each side of the tunnel’s entrance. The only thing that somewhat relieved me was that it wasn’t a sculpture of me. If Cliff made a sculpture of me, I wouldn’t be able to use this tunnel ever again, making me unable to go to Mireera.
When I made the statues, Swaying Bear and Hugging Bear seemed happy. Were they happy to have statues of themselves made?

After I made the statues quickly, we once again departed towards Crimonia.
When we arrived at the town, the two of them returned to their respective workplaces.
Cliff went to the Feudal Lord’s house and Mylene-san went to the Commerce Guild.
I headed to Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop to have a meal.
I was the only one who had no work, so I was able to take it easy. Well, I had things to do, but they weren’t pressing matters, so I could start doing them tomorrow.
I said the words that any unmotivated person would say.
I will do it tomorrow. I will do my best tomorrow.
They were beautiful words.
I believed that if I could do it tomorrow, I should do it tomorrow.
I didn’t have to force myself to do it today.
As I was walking towards Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop, I repeated those excuses to myself.

I went to the Commerce Guild the next day.
I was looking for Mylene-san, but I couldn’t find her.

“Excuse me, Kuma-san?”
“Kuma-san?”

When I looked for the source of this strange way of calling me, I saw a young female employee.

“No, Yuna-san. Are you looking for the guild master, Mylene-san?”

She called me Kuma-san just now, right? Not like I could say anything when I had responded to it, though…

“Yes, is she here?”
“She’s not. It seems that she’s not well. She didn’t go to sleep yesterday, and just locked herself in her room.”

This meant that she had been working since she came back yesterday.
She had it rough. I was personally feeling great, since I slept well.

“I wanted to talk to her about a plot of land, though.”
“A plot of land, is it? If you are okay with me, you can talk to me about it.”

Hmm, what should I do?
Other employees were okay too, but…

“Yuna-chan, what is it?”
“Guild master!?”

Mylene-san walked towards us.

“I had a little favor to ask of you, Mylene-san.”
“Of me?”
“I’m running a shop now, you know.”
“Yes, the Bear’s Rest, right?”
“I would like to purchase some land in its vicinity.”
“Ah, for the fishmonger, right?”
“That’s not exactly it, but…”
“If I remember correctly, there are some vacant plots and houses, but will you really make it?”

“Even if Anzu doesn’t come, Deiga-san promised to introduce me to some other people, after all.”
“Hmm, you can purchase it, but, Yuna-chan, do you really understand? There aren’t any skilled people who would do it for free, you know.”

I didn’t really plan on making them do it for free, though.
I made the tunnel so I could have seafood in Crimonia, and making the restaurant was so that I could eat seafood whenever I wanted. It was all for my own sake.

“Riana, please sell her a plot of land near 『Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop』 at half price.”

Mylene-san said something unbelievable.

“Guild Master! You sure that’s all right?”
“You sure?”

The employee and I asked the same question.

“Compared to the profits Yuna-chan brought to Crimonia this time, it’s an insignificant. Yuna-chan has only eyes for seafood, but you see, Cliff and I believe that salt is the most significant thing that will be brought over.”
“Salt?”
“We stocked up on rock salt before, but now that the sea is near us, we will have access to large quantities of salt for a cheap price. We will also be able to sell it to other towns and villages. You see, this tunnel is even more incredible than you believe, Yuna-chan. That’s why, you don’t have to worry about something like a simple plot of land. We still have to put up a front though, so we can’t just give it for free.”

Mylene-san was tired, but she was still smiling.
Certainly, salt was an important resource in any world. It was more valuable than sugar.
I purchased salt normally, so I didn’t really notice before. As expected of the Commerce Guild’s master and the Feudal Lord, they had a different point of view from someone like me.
I just did what I wanted, but the two of them took action while thinking about the town’s benefits.

“Riana, I’m counting on you then.”
“What about guild master?”

“My stomach is empty, so I will eat a meal at the Bear’s Rest.”

She waved her hand and left the guild.

“Yuna-san, this way, please.”

Riana showed me every plot of land around the 『Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop』 and I decided to buy all of them. Was it okay for me to buy them so cheaply?
If it wasn’t, I would give them back.

“All of them!?”
“Yes, it’s troublesome to buy them piece by piece, and I don’t want other people to buy any. Also, is it possible to sell the plot where I’m living right now?”
“You plan on moving?”
“I plan on building my home near the shop, so that it will be easier to go there.”
“I understand. Then, I will buy the plot of land where Yuna-san is living. Please move out before the end of this month.”
“Okay.”

I bought the land and left the guild.
I arrived near the Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop.
A large vacant house was right next to it. It was a bit smaller than the shop.
I would just have to rearrange this, huh?
On the first floor, I removed the inside walls, changing it into one room. The kitchen was a bit small, so I made it bigger. A pantry was next to the kitchen. The size should be sufficient, I think? If it wasn’t, I would just have to enlarge it later.
I would have to discuss about the tables and the interior design with Anzu when she came. By then, things should have also calmed down for Mylene-san, so it might be good to talk to her as well.
I left the second floor as it was.
Even if Anzu wouldn’t live here, we could use it as a resting room.
I left the house.
No one had been living here, so the overgrowth was awful.
Like last time, I cleaned it up using magic, and remade the cracked walls so that they became nice and clean. A restaurant’s appearance was really important, after all.
I was done after that, probably.
Still, was it just my impression that it looked lonely?
I looked at the Bear-san’s Relaxing Shop. There were Bears there.
I looked at the restaurant. There were no Bears here.

Anzu might hate bears.
I had to take her wishes into account, so I decided to not make them here.

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